Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-239
Thursday
12 December 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-239 12 December 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian Delegation Dispute Unresolved *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Israel Proposes New Plan for Talks on Self-Rule *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Envoy to U.S on New Proposal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Proposal on 'Integrated' Work Teams *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Israelis Recount Meeting With Syrians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Ben-Aharon on Atmospherics *[Jerusalem TV]* 3
On 'Inflexible' Syrian Stand *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 4
Syrian Chief Delegate on Meeting With Israelis *[SANA]* 4
Al-Asad Special Envoy Reportedly To Arrive *[Amman Radio]* 4
Jordanians, Palestinians on Talks With Israel 4
No 'Final Deal' Reached *[Amman Radio]* 4
Jordan's Proposal To End Deadlock *[AL-RA'Y 12 Dec]* 5
Palestinian Delegate on 'Two-Track' Approach *[Jerusalem TV]* 6
Arab Sources Said Pessimistic About Progress *[MENA]* 6

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Support for Libya Lockerbie Stance Viewed 6
Unity Contrasts With Gulf War Stance *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Dec]* 6
Solidarity 'Surprised and Stunned' West *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Dec]* 7
Gulf Cooperation Council Interior Ministers Meet *[SPA]* 8
Cairo OAPEC Meeting Concludes 7 Dec *[SPA]* 8

Islamic Affairs

Leaders Continue Speeches; ICO Summit Ends Early 8
'Arafat Gives Speech 10 Dec *[Algiers VOP]* 8
Denktas Urges Support for Turkish Cypriots *[Bayrak Radio]* 11
UAE Condemns Iraq, Hails Peace Talks *[WAKH]* 12
ICO Chairman Gives Closing Speech *[SPA]* 13
'Arafat 'Stormed Out' of Closing Session *[AFP]* 13
Review of Initiatives in ICO Summit Declaration 14
Palestinian Struggle Supported *[IRNA]* 14
Common Markets To Be Established *[IRNA]* 14
Preservation of Islamic Values Urged *[IRNA]* 15
Summit Declaration Summarized *[MAP]* 15
Secretary General on Islamic Development Bank Aid *[MAP]* 16
Saudi Minister Lauds Bank's Role *[SPA]* 16
Leaders Continue To Meet at Sideline Sessions 16
Algerian, Soviet Republic Leaders Meet *[APS]* 16
Saudi Crown Prince Meets Iranian President *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
'Arafat Meets Chadian President *[Algiers VOP]* 16
SAIRI Leader Arrives for Talks *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 17
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets UK Muslims *[IRNA]* 17
Libya's al-Bishari Meets Leaders *[JANA]* 17
Syria's Khaddam Meets Saudi Foreign Minister *[SANA]* 17

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak on Libya, Appointment of Vice President *[AL-AHRAM 7 Dec]* 18
Paper Warns of U.S.-Libyan Crisis 'Escalation' *[MENA]* 18
Al-Baz, Soviet Ambassador Discuss Peace Efforts *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Al-Sharif Returns From Gulf Tour With Messages *[MENA]* 19
Musa Denies Attempt To Influence Vote on Zionism *[MENA]* 19
Italy To Lend $101 Million for Electric Projects *[MENA]* 19

Libya

Officials Discuss Implications of Lockerbie Case 19
Investigating Judge Cited *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Nov]* 19
Al-Bishari on Developments *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Dec]* 21
Organizations Defend Libyan Stance on Lockerbie 23
Egyptian Consultative Council Statement *[JANA]* 23
Arab Culture Council on 'Provocations' *[JANA]* 23

Sudan

Juba Residents Protest Shelling, Demand Peace *[Omdurman Radio]* 23
'Emergency' Relief Plan Formulated *[SUNA]* 24

Tunisia

Source Denies Part of Algerian Territory Occupied *[MENA]* 24

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Iran Air Resumes Flights to Manama 10 Dec *[WAKH]* 25

Kuwait

UN Asked To 'Compel' Iraq To Return Detainees *[KUNA]* 25
Amir Returns From ICO Summit in Dakar *[Kuwait Radio]* 25

Oman

Cabinet Reshuffled; New Ministers Appointed *[Muscat Radio]* 25

Saudi Arabia

Sa'ud al-Faysal Welcomes Azerbaijani ICO Membership *[SPA]* 26

Republic of Yemen

Soviet Military Delegation Arrives in Sanaa 11 Dec 26
Smirnov Notes 'Strong' Relations *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
'Exchange of Expertise' Discussed *[Sanaa Radio]* 26

IRAQ

AL-QADISIYAH Editor Executed 'Recently' *[Tehran Radio]* 27
Ousted National Assembly Members Named *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 10 Dec]* 27
Saddam Said Bribing Citizens, Forces *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 27
Statutes of Secret Saddam Organization Detailed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 4-10 Dec]* 27
Saddam Husayn Urges German To End Hunger Strike *[INA]* 28

German Woman Ends Hunger Strike *[INA]* 29
Reform Movement Urges Unity Among Opposition *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 30
'Nationalists' Abroad Issue 'Appeal' for Unity *[AL-THAWRAH 9 Dec]* 30
Attacks on Saddam's 'Dens' in Karbala' Reported *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 32
Kurdish Leader Visits Fasting Workers in Irbil *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 32
Oil Minister Returns, Comments on OAPEC Meeting *[INA]* 32
Ahmad Husayn Returns From Maghreb Tour 10 Dec *[INA]* 32
National Assembly Group Returns From Maghreb Tour *[INA]* 33
Agriculture Union Signs Libyan Protocol *[JANA]* 33

ISRAEL

Levi Warns Against Prematurely Abandoning Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 34
Behind-the-Scenes Moves Reported *[Jerusalem TV]* 34
Decision on Silwan Settlement Issue Released 35
Attorney General—Settlers Can Claim Homes *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Settlers Occupy Homes; More Purchased *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Committee To Thwart Land Sales to Jews Proposed 35
Al-Husayni Outlines Goals *[HA'ARETZ 11 Dec]* 35
Al-Husayni, New Group Hold News Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Settlers Document Outlines 'Dangers of Autonomy' *[HA'ARETZ 12 Dec]* 36
Ne'eman Discusses Contacts With Russian Officials *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
Predictions of 400,000 Soviet Immigrants in 1992 *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Data on Economic Activity in Territories *[HA'ARETZ 12 Dec]* 38
'Intelligence Sources' on Syrian Army Buildup *[HADASHOT 11 Dec]* 38

JORDAN

Information Minister on Arab Ties, Peace Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Dec]* 39
Saudi Arabia Reportedly Writes Off Debts *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 12 Dec]* 40
AL-RA'Y Criticizes Dakar Summit, Defends Iraq *[12 Dec]* 40
Summit Called 'Big Disappointment' *[JORDAN TIMES 12-13 Dec]* 40
Prince Hasan Receives Iranian Majles Delegation *[Amman TV]* 41
Delegation Leaves Amman 10 Dec *[PETRA-JNA]* 41
Finance Minister Outlines 1992 Draft Budget *[Amman Radio]* 41
Officials Affirm Bread Prices To Remain Stable *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Dec]* 42

LEBANON

Higgins' Body Reportedly To Be Returned 'Soon' *[VOM]* 43
Deployment Agreement Reached 'In Principle' *[VOL]* 43
Birri, Fadlallah Discuss South, Peace Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Hizballah Leader on Intifadah, Washington Talks *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43
France's Dumas Arrives in Beirut; Talks Begin *[VOL]* 43

SYRIA

Commentary Views Israeli 'Evasion' in Peace Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rebel Party Leader Discusses Moscow Talks *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 23 Nov]* 45
Government Seeks European Market for Natural Gas *[AFP]* 47

India

Further on Visit of PRC Premier Li Peng 48
Calls for Improved Relations *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Seeks 'Reasonable Solution' to Border *[Delhi Radio]* 49

Cites 'New Vitality' in Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Meets With President *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Government 'Stepping Up' Ties With Cambodia *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Rao Calls for 'Friendly' Relations With Pakistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 50
Commentary Hails UK 'Indictment' of Pakistan *[Delhi International]* 50

Iran

Further on UN Declaration of Iraq as Aggressor 51
Statement Assesses Ruling, Reparations *[IRNA]* 51
Cabinet Hails Decision *[Tehran TV]* 52
Foreign Ministry on 'Victory' *[Tehran Radio]* 52
President Congratulates Khamene'i *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Khomeyni Sends Message to Khamene'i *[Tehran TV]* 53
Armed Forces Communique Greets Nation *[IRNA]* 53
Iran Said To Receive Weapons Meant for Afghans *[AFP]* 53
Industries Ministers Meet PRC Official *[Tehran TV]* 53
German Banking Union To Provide Investment Loan *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Karrubi Calls For Expanding DPRK Ties *[Tehran TV]* 54
Commentary on Access to Nuclear Technology *[ETTELA'AT 24 Nov]* 54
INA: 400 Troops Killed in Military Exercise 55
Assassination of Opponents Reportedly Ordered *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 55
Khamene'i Warns of 'Cultural Assault' *[IRNA]* 55
Political Factions Urge To Counter Common Enemies *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 20 Nov]* 55

Nepal & Bhutan

Koirala Returns From India; 'Animosity' Ended *[AFP]* 56

Pakistan

'Text' of Economic Reform Legislation *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 11 Dec]* 56
Government, China Sign Technological Accord *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Government, Iran Sign Commercial Agreement *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Editorial Deplores Government Human Rights Policy *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 58

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian Delegation Dispute Unresolved

TA1112205991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Another meeting between the head of the Israeli delegation and the heads of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has ended in a State Department corridor in Washington. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the controversy barring the continuation of negotiations between complete teams remains unresolved.

The Palestinians have announced that their representative has submitted a compromise proposal and that they now are awaiting an Israeli reply. The Palestinians have apparently proposed that their delegation include more than one Jordanian representative, while the Jordanian delegation will include more than one Palestinian representative.

After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein said that he had invited the heads of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to another meeting tonight. He asserted that he has not received satisfactory replies from his interlocutors, and it is a pity that they are not abiding by the agreements achieved by Secretary of State Baker.

Our correspondent notes that at present it is unclear whether the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation heads will show up at the meeting tonight.

Israel Proposes New Plan for Talks on Self-Rule

TA1212053991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Day three of the Washington peace talks gets under way late this afternoon Israel time. Overnight Israel presented the Palestinians with a new proposal that the joint delegation with Jordan will deal only with matters of agenda and venue. At the same time, the Palestinian subcommittee would discuss with the Israelis the substantive issues relating to self-rule for the Palestinians in the territories. [passage omitted]

Envoy to U.S on New Proposal

TA1212061091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to the United States, by Linda Epstein—live]

[Text] [Epstein] Ambassador Shoval, can you confirm for us the Israeli proposal to the Palestinians—that is, a Palestinian subcommittee for immediate talks on self-rule in the territories and a joint delegation only to deal with agenda and venue?

[Shoval] Well, I would go beyond that. I wouldn't go into detail right now about the exact nature of our proposals, but I would say the following: The point of contention between us and the Palestinians at the present time—the Jordanian-Palestinians—is that they do not want to continue the life of the joint Jordanian- Palestinian commission or committee—and that is, of course, something which cannot be changed, could not be changed under any circumstances, because that's the legal basis for our whole negotiations with the Palestinians, as well as with the Jordanians. They feel it is symbolic, would seem as a symbolic achievement, because they want to emphasize the separateness of the possible or future Palestinian entity, and that's, of course, something which Israel is opposed to, as well as the Americans. The Americans are opposed to that as well.

Now, what we have suggested to them—and I'm saying this in very general terms—is: Look, we are willing to unbend a little bit and be flexible and approach your position on contents. You want to talk about this or that subject which pertains to the future of the territories, the future of the Palestinian population in the territories. Okay, we are willing to do that. We can do that either in separate teams, or in subcommittees of these separate teams, or both; but all of this must continue in the framework of the joint delegation, which will discuss such things as venues as a first proposition. This does not mean that the joint commission or the joint committee will only meet once or twice or three times in order to discuss venues or timetables, but this could be one or two of the subjects which we are going to discuss tomorrow, if the joint committee is actually going to meet.

[Epstein] Well, Ambassador Shoval, have you had any indication from the Palestinians that the Israeli proposal is acceptable, and does this mean in one way or another that the talks will continue in the corridor today or they will take on some kind of formal structure and move into the rooms officially?

[Shoval] Well, I think we should be clear in our minds that the talks in the corridor is between the heads of the delegation, and these are really preparatory talks in order to enable the negotiations themselves to get off the ground, and there is nothing wrong with that. Negotiations can take place in different places under different propositions and so on and so forth, and I would say that some common ground had been reached.

One of the problems, by the way, which you didn't mention, which I think is an obstacle to speedier progress, is that there are quite a lot of differences of opinion, to put it mildly, within the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and this does not make it easier for them to come to some sort of modus vivendi with us, but ultimately we believe that they will come to their senses and understand that the only way to make progress is really to follow the ground rules which form the basis for the whole process. Now there will be ups and there will be downs, but I would not rule out or even minimize the chances of progress on the Palestinian and the Jordanian tracks of this joint committee.

[Epstein] Ambassador Shoval, briefly, as our time is limited: We haven't been hearing much about the issue of venue. Is Israel still insisting on moving these talks out of Washington into the Middle East, and what have the Arab delegations been saying?

[Shoval] Well, very much so, but we haven't reached the point where we are actually negotiating it, because with the Syrians we are discussing the exact interpretation of 242, what the aim of the process is; the Lebanese have other things to discuss; and with the Jordanian-Palestinians we haven't even reached that point yet. But there's a possibility that we will bring up these propositions tomorrow in all committees.

No, we still believe that Washington is not the right place, not because it's Washington but because it is so far away and, in very practical terms, we are now reaching the point in another two or three or four or five days where our committee or our delegations will have to go back in order to consult with the government and get new instructions, and this is just one example of what will happen in the future.

[Epstein] Ambassador Shoval, finally, how long is the Israeli delegation staying in Washington? When are they leaving?

[Shoval] Well, I suppose we will stay as long as progress can be made, and we will certainly explore all possibilities, even over the weekend and beginning next week, to see how we can make progress, if we can make progress, but then we'll have to take a break in order, as I said, to consult and report to the government.

[Epstein] Ambassador Shoval, thank you very much.

Proposal on 'Integrated' Work Teams

TA1112230691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2200 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The talks between the Israeli delegation head and the heads of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation have resumed in a State Department corridor in Washington. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that several other delegates from each delegation are also present.

Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington, said that the talks with the Jordanians and the Palestinians suffered a certain setback today. Our correspondent was told that Israel has submitted a very detailed proposal on the structure of negotiations, according to which the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will continue to be the source of authority for the work teams to be established to deal with substantive matters. Israel has further proposed that work teams tasked with Palestinian issues include a substantial number of Jordanian representatives, while the teams addressing matters pertaining to Jordan include a substantial number of Palestinian representatives.

[A report by political correspondent Natan Gutman on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 2200 GMT on 11 December adds details of the Israeli proposal to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation: "Elyaqim Rubinstein speaks of a three-layered negotiating framework. The upper framework includes the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which will be a kind of a permanent committee to which the delegates will refer in case of argument in subcommittees. The second framework speaks of work teams formed according to subjects. The Israeli delegates stressed that the work teams will be really integrated and will include a mixture, rather than a mere token representative of the other group. The bottom level involves integrated subject-related subcommittees to be established as warranted. The teams will be functional, Israeli spokesmen promised tonight. They stressed: We want to discuss substance even today. Enough of procedure; let us go on to substance."]

Ambassador Shoval noted that the Washington administration has not offered Israel any plan for settling the controversy and is adamant in its support for direct dialogue between the parties.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, has said that the proposals submitted by our delegates are fair and that they preserve the understandings achieved before the process was launched. [passage omitted]

Israelis Recount Meeting With Syrians

TA1112190591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1827 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Report from Washington by political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] Good evening. I believe you have already heard an initial report that the discussion between the Israeli and Syrian delegations has ended. According to what is known now, the main issue of discussion this evening was UN Security Council Resolution 242. Each party presented its view of this resolution. The Syrians regard Resolution 242 as an ultimatum that binds Israel to make a total and complete withdrawal from all the territories without negotiation. The Israeli representatives, or rather the head of the delegation, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, expressed the Israeli view of this resolution, saying that negotiations must be held on each clause of the resolution, which are all subject to negotiations. No clause of the resolution—especially the one concerning withdrawal from territories—can be forced without negotiations. Furthermore, the resolution speaks of security arrangements, of securing all the Middle East countries' right to exist, and other things.

Only the heads of the delegations spoke in this meeting, too. The Syrians blatantly refused—as Israeli sources termed it—to hold any discussion about the venue of the talks to be held after the current round of talks in Washington ends. They refused to discuss moving the talks to the Middle East. Also, the issue of the Syrian

Jews was not raised, but it certainly will be raised later in the discussions. The next meeting with the Syrian delegation will be held here tomorrow at 1500 GMT.

Ben-Aharon on Atmospherics

TA1112200791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the Israeli delegation for negotiations with Syria, by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari and Ya'ir Stern in Washington "30 minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Stern] With us in the studio here is Mr. Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general and the head of the Israeli delegation for negotiations with Syria. Mr. Ben-Aharon, you have just ended a round of talks with the Syrians. How would you sum it up?

[Ben-Aharon] We are discussing the contents of our problems with the Syrians. Today we particularly focused—upon Syrian request—on the meaning of the famous UN Resolution 242 and its implementation. The Syrians adhered to their interpretation that Resolution 242 calls for an ultimate, absolute, and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. We, on the other hand, tried to explain that this is not the way to interpret the resolution. It contains very important references to peace. He [not further identified], however, was not willing to go into this, refusing—just as he did in Madrid—to deal with the meaning of peace.

[Ya'ari] Did you find any foothold in this legal discussion which could give the continuation of the talks some more solid ground? After all, you will find it hard to go around and around through the various legal interpretations only.

[Ben-Aharon] When he heard our interpretation, he said that they have one, too, and that they want to prepare it. That is why they postponed the next meeting, scheduled to take place this afternoon, until tomorrow so that they are allowed—as he put it—to prepare and digest their reaction and interpretation.

[Stern] After holding two meetings with them, yesterday and today, and in view of your expected meeting tomorrow, do you feel that there is any basis for dialogue with them, that progress can be made?

[Ben-Aharon] My impression is that he thinks that the fact they came for a meeting with us is an act of such vast significance that now we should be the givers, that it calls for our response. I would say that we are witnessing an educational process. He must understand that he did us no favor by coming for the negotiations after some 40 years of alienation, and that we are speaking as equals. That is why we have to begin dealing with essentials, and they have to understand our stand that we seek peace with security.

[Ya'ari] Did he mention the Palestinian issue? After all, you constantly ask him to say whether he is willing to recognize Israel's legitimacy, never mind the borders. Does he answer anything? Does he mention borders or the Palestinians?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, occasionally, when we eventually engage in more thorough discussion, he refers to what he often calls the root of the conflict, or how it all started. When he does, we sit up straight in our chairs because what he is saying, in fact, means a rejection of the legitimacy of the State of Israel. He says that the UN partition resolution of 1947 was an injustice, justifying the Palestinian rejection of the resolution because their land was stolen from them. This implies that all that has happened since is an outcome of our original act of aggression. I told him: You are in fact continuing to reject Israel's legitimacy, just as you explicitly did in Madrid. That is why it is hard to say that there is any progress here.

[Stern] Is there any progress on the issue of venue? Are the Syrians ready to move the talks to the Middle East at some stage?

[Ben-Aharon] We raised it in Madrid and again today. I told him: After all, the technical difficulties are common to us both. I believe that it is just as inconvenient to you as it is to us to be so far from home, from the decision-maker, from showing the residents of the region that we are engaged in a process of reaching an agreement. He did not even comment on this. He said: We came to Washington; we like it here, and I want us to continue here.

[Ya'ari] Are you considering the option of proposing steps that are not immediately related to an agreement—some exchange of gestures or signals of goodwill, as I believe the disagreement will last some time?

[Ben-Aharon] There is a possibility that things like this will take place later on. Currently we are trying to remove misunderstandings as much as we can and to focus on the main issues: the essence of relations between Israel and Syria, the substantial reasons for the conflict, and the deep meaning of Resolution 242. Later we will see. There is no need to solve all the problems in one fell swoop.

[Ya'ari] In his delegation there is a man called Abu-Salih, a Druze from Majdal Shams, whose family organized the strikes and boycotts against the Israeli ID's. Is there any symbolism here? Is this member also taking part in the talks or is he only passing notes?

[Ben-Aharon] The chairman, Mr. al-'Allaf, is the only one doing the talking. If anyone has anything to say, they pass notes to him. Occasionally, someone would come in from the outside after holding some consultation, with Damascus perhaps. So far, however, no one—not even the Druze you mentioned whose presence could have some symbolic meaning...

[Stern, interrupting] Would you say that the atmosphere is good or friendly, that you can talk to each other?

[Ben-Aharon] Negative. There is nothing of the sort. They would not even go to the coffee table with us. They are punishing themselves. We have a break, we have coffee, the Syrians go to the other end of the hall, and there is not the slightest sign of their willingness to thaw the atmosphere.

[Ya'ari] How are the minutes taken?

[Ben-Aharon] We agreed on that in Madrid: each party takes its own notes. Someone is taking the minutes for us, and we have a recording; he has one too.

[Ya'ari] Not a joint recording?

[Ben-Aharon] Not a joint recording.

[Stern] Mr. Ben-Aharon, thank you.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

On 'Inflexible' Syrian Stand

TA1112104291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1013 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Report by Natan Gutman, political correspondent in Washington]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Asked whether the Syrian delegation is optimistic, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf says: As long as we can expect results, we will remain here. We still hope the other side—the Israelis—will realize it must try to discuss peace seriously with us.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, who heads the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, says the opposite. He says the Syrians are locked in their inflexible approach, which stresses one issue only: territories. Let us hear Ben-Aharon:

[Begin Ben-Aharon recording, broadcast in progress] ...because he adheres to the inflexible stand that puts territories above everything else—and not simply territories, but absolute withdrawal. [end recording]

Ben-Aharon adds that when referring to their demand for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the Syrians used the expression: not one inch. They also refused to discuss any component of peace other than the territorial issue.

The talks with the Syrians will continue at 1000 [1500 GMT] tomorrow morning.

Syrian Chief Delegate on Meeting With Israelis

JN1112211091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 11 Dec (SANA)—Emerging from the second meeting with the Israeli side to the negotiations of the second phase of Middle East peace talks, which was held at the U.S. State Department this morning, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, declared that today's meeting "did not result in overcoming the existing obstacle."

In a statement to journalists after the meeting, he added that the Israeli side still insists on rejecting the land-for-peace principle.

He added: "We spent most of today's meeting listening to the Israeli side's interpretation of UN Resolution 242, an interpretation we do not approve of at all because it dismisses Israel's obligation and duty toward withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967."

Al-'Allaf said: "The Israeli side today again raised the issue of moving the talks from Washington, but we rejected any discussions on this issue, because we came to Washington to stay until tangible results, we hope, have been reached."

Regarding his expectations about how long matters can proceed as they are, al-'Allaf said that this depends on the other side. He added: "We came here fully prepared immediately to engage in useful and serious talks on means to take steps toward the establishment of a just, permanent peace in the region. However, the other side continues to resort to maneuvers to obstruct any progress."

Al-'Allaf said that today's meeting was adjourned until 1000 tomorrow, Thursday, Washington time.

Al-Asad Special Envoy Reportedly To Arrive

JN1212070991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf has said that a special envoy of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will arrive in Washington on Saturday [14 December] to hold talks on the Syrian-Israeli negotiations and to bolster coordination among the Arab parties.

Jordanians, Palestinians on Talks With Israel

No 'Final Deal' Reached

JN1212070191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[George Tarif report from Washington]

[Excerpts] Heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations—Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Elyaqim Rubenstein—held two meetings last night in the corridor leading to the meeting halls at the U.S. State Department to discuss the resumption of talks with Israel through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or two separate delegations. No final deal was reached in those two meetings.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, this morning told journalists after the second meeting, which lasted more than two hours, that some proposals made by the three parties were discussed. He

expressed hope that a final deal on that issue can be achieved in today's meeting.

Dr. al-Majali said that some progress was achieved during the evening session. He said he hopes an agreement can be reached in today's meeting to resume the talks with Israel through two delegations, a Jordanian delegation negotiating with an Israeli one, and a Palestinian delegation negotiating with an Israeli one.

In his statements, al-Majali said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] We met for over two hours. We are still discussing procedures. Certain points have now became clear to both parties. We have not reached a final deal. We will meet tomorrow at 0900 to try to end this issue so that we can start our serious work to discuss the substance of the talks.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Al-Majali] Of course we are talking to each other. There were answers to some points, but we have not finished our discussion of all points.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Al-Majali] I am always optimistic. I will never change. [end recording]

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi did not make any statement to journalists, and only said: We will meet again at 0400 Jordan time today.

Earlier in the morning the heads of the three delegations met for four hours in the corridor leading to the meeting hall. A number of proposals were made by the two parties, but no final deal was reached. [passage omitted]

Today's meeting will be the fifth to be held by the heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations to discuss procedural issues, after which bilateral talks are expected to resume. [passage omitted]

Jordan's Proposal To End Deadlock

JN1212092991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Dec 91 pp 1, 21

[Caroline Faraj report from Washington]

[Excerpts] Arab-Israeli bilateral talks continued in Washington for the second consecutive day without reaching agreement on anything but to continue the talks and set dates for them, because of Israel's intransigence and its rejection of the Palestinian delegation's independence. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, said: We met with the Israeli delegation from 0915 to 1500 Washington time. We discussed procedures and did not reach an agreement over the issue of the delegation. Both parties made proposals. The Jordanian delegation made a proposal in writing and we hope to hear a positive answer from them to clear the way for discussing substantive issues. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y learned that the proposal made by the Jordanian delegation, which was approved by the Palestinians, stipulates that negotiations should be held under the Jordanian umbrella, provided they are made on two tracks. First, a Jordanian track in which issues related to Jordan will be discussed. The negotiating team will be led by the head of the Jordanian delegation and comprise members from the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. Second, a Palestinian track in which issues related to the Palestine question will be discussed. The head of the Palestinian delegation will lead this negotiating team, which will also comprise members from both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

AL-RA'Y also learned that the joint delegation will meet at dawn today with the Israeli delegation after it has learned that it has shown a little flexibility over the proposal.

Informed sources told AL-RA'Y yesterday that the Arab delegations have decided to suspend the negotiations on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and resume them on Monday.

The sources said that fearing U.S. interception of contacts with officials back in Israel, the Israeli delegation will leave Washington on Friday to return to Tel Aviv and hold consultations with its government, then return to the U.S. capital on Monday.

Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi this morning said the delegation has proposed setting up two mixed delegations made up of Jordanians and Palestinians to overcome the obstacle resulting from Israel's refusal to negotiate with a delegation made up of Palestinians only.

In a press conference, 'Ashrawi said the Palestinian proposal is based on the "two-track negotiations" between Israel and the Arab states on the one hand, and Israel and the Palestinians on the other.

She added that the proposal calls for a Palestinian participation with the Jordanians and a Jordanian participation with the Palestinians. She explained: The Palestinians will have a Jordanian member in their delegation in any meeting to discuss Palestinian issues, and the Jordanians will have a Palestinian member in any meeting to discuss Jordanian issues.

Members of the joint delegation last night met with the U.S. official responsible for following up the progress of the negotiations and briefed him on the outcome of the talks. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegate on 'Two-Track' Approach

TA1112162691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1530 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Interview with Palestinian delegate Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari; in Washington "about an hour ago"—recorded in English]

[Text] [Al-'Akir] What we are trying to [words indistinct] is that we are abiding by the terms of reference: the letters of invitation, the letter of assurances by the Americans, and even more importantly to us is the very text of the communique, the joint communique which was done in Madrid soon after the first bilateral round, and which the Israeli head of the delegation, Mr. Rubinstein, agreed upon. It is specifically stated that we are going to have direct negotiations in two tracks: an Israeli-Palestinian track and an Israeli-Jordanian track. And, I have this....

[Ya'ari, interrupting] Mr. Rubinstein doesn't deny it, but he says that by Israel agreeing to a two-track approach, it does not necessarily mean that the joint delegation is no longer a joint delegation, and that we are faced with two different delegations.

[Al-'Akir] No, and we accept that the joint delegation still holds. It is a framework for the whole process; we accept this fact, but the way the joint delegation is being agreed upon—that there be a majority of Palestinians with one or two Jordanians on the Palestinian track, and there will be a majority of Jordanians with one or two Palestinians on the Jordanian track. But the fact is that there are two tracks: an Israeli-Palestinian track and an Israeli-Jordanian track.

Arab Sources Said Pessimistic About Progress

NC1212094491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 12 Dec (MENA)—Sources from the Arab delegations to the bilateral peace talks have said that the talks over the past two days do not leave one to expect progress or even bridge the gap between the stands of the Arab and Israeli sides soon.

One of the sources stressed that what has taken place so far did not really achieve a positive sign; the talks have rather deepened and widened the gap between the two sides. The source added that the discussions have proven that the delegations expect difficult and tough negotiations over the next days and weeks.

The sources pointed to the dispute that erupted between the Palestinian and Jordanian delegations and the Israeli delegation. The sources affirmed that the dispute was not over the issue of procedures, but concerns a vital issue that will influence the status of the Palestinian negotiators in the long run.

In this regard, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian delegation, said that what the Israeli side is trying to achieve by holding negotiations with the Jordanians and Palestinians together is to abrogate the Palestinian identity. He said that the Palestinian request that negotiations be held separately with each side is not only based on agreements worked out in the past, but it is something dictated by logic because there is no use in involving the Jordanians or the Palestinians in discussing issues which do not concern them directly.

The sources revealed that the talks with the Syrian and Lebanese delegations have only provided an opportunity to explore each side's attitude and propose more hardline stands. The sources said that during the talks with the Lebanese side, the Israelis said that the May 17 agreement should constitute the starting point of the negotiations. It should be recalled that the agreement was brokered by the United States in wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, but the Lebanese Government was later forced to revoke it unilaterally in view of the outrage of the Lebanese people. The Lebanese side, however, adhered to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Arab delegation sources said that there is a wide gap between the Israeli and Syrian stands—a gap confirmed during the two sessions held by the two sides during the past two days. Therefore, the sources added, the continuation of the talks in this manner would only mean a waste of more time without achieving tangible results.

The sources went on to say that the Arab side believes that the United States, in its capacity as sponsor of the peace talks, must give up its position as an observer—a position that has been adopted since the start of the bilateral talks—and must shoulder its responsibility to carry out positive actions to advance the talks so that the political settlement and the desired peace for the Middle East will be attained.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Support for Libya Lockerbie Stance Viewed

Unity Contrasts With Gulf War Stance

PM1012170091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 91 p 17

[Bakr 'Uwaydah article: "What a Difference Between Two Cases When League Appeals to Community Spirit"]

[Text] What a difference between the Arab response to the recent development in Libya's relations with the United States, Britain, and France and the line of the Arab response when Saddam Husayn embarked on the foolishness of "the mother of catastrophes" at dawn on 2 August 1990, despite the big difference between the circumstances and reasons that led to each case.

Here are the Arabs, united in backing Libya by supporting its wish to cooperate with the capitals concerned with investigating the bombing of the PanAm and French (UTA) airliners, in order to establish the truth about what happened and to identify the parties, and perhaps parties responsible for the two acts, which, like any terrorist act attributed to Arab parties, have harmed Arabs and Muslims as well as other innocent people.

Of course, the Arab League Council would not have issued a statement ratified by unanimous Arab support for Libya's wish and urging the capital concerned to respond to that wish, if Libya had not supported itself first when it decided to deal with the crisis through the logic of reason and the law, not with screams and the vocabulary of threats. Besides, this Arab unanimity would have been impossible if Libya had not promptly contacted the other Arab brothers, explaining its position and seeking their understanding. In fact it did not feel embarrassed to seek the mediation of any of the brothers—Egypt, the Arab Maghreb states, or the Arab Gulf states. As a result, the spirit of Arab community dominated the meeting of the Arab League Council, which issued a statement that appeared as a collective Arab mediation between Libya and the Western capitals concerned. It will be difficult for these capitals to ignore or disregard this mediation, despite their hard line. What a big difference, indeed. Was it not possible to express a similar Arab response to Saddam's invasion of Kuwait in order to spare the nation all the calamities that resulted from that foolishness? All that was required of the Arab foreign ministers, who met in Cairo a few hours after the invasion to prepare for the meeting of the Islamic states' foreign ministers, was to agree unanimously to obey the prophet's words: "Help your brother, whether he is the oppressor or the oppressed." It would have been sufficient for Arab consensus to help oppressed Kuwait by standing by it en bloc, and to help Saddam by stopping him from continuing his oppression by standing against him en bloc if he did not heed the advice, exactly as happened in the past with 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim, though he did not drive the Iraqi Army into the furnace as Saddam did.

But would an oppressor whose heart, hearing, and eyes God has veiled have abandoned his arrogance to heed the advice of brothers and friends? No, most probably he would not. But he should not have benefited from the evils of disunity and the rifts of division caused by the Arabs' failure to stand united against him. And the nation should not have been made to pay the price for these evils and rifts for years to come.

Solidarity 'Surprised and Stunned' West

PM1112151491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 91 p 13

['Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan article: "The Arab Cover"]

[Text] The United States, Britain, and France have been unable to produce similar circumstances that would enable them to treat Libya as they treated Iraq. More importantly, they have not managed—perhaps they have not even tried—to form an "Arab front" to provide the essential and necessary cover for possible measures against Libya. It is worth noting here that the Lockerbie case and the case of the French UTA plane—if the charges in these cases are true—are about the death of U.S., British, and French nationals, as well as other nationals. This means that the three major states are very directly involved.

With the Western mentality that has prevailed since the Gulf war, Britain declared that it could not understand the Arab League's solidarity with Libya over the Lockerbie issue. It also said that it was "surprised and stunned" by that solidarity. With another mentality that has prevailed since before the Gulf war, Libya says that the Lockerbie issue is in the hands of the Arab League "now that Libya's innocence has been confirmed with the world supporting it in the face of flagrant U.S. terrorism." Both approaches are certainly erroneous. Arab solidarity with Libya does not necessarily mean solidarity with terrorism warranting a "stunned" reaction, and the Arab League's involvement in criminal matters does not necessarily excuse the culprit, whoever it may be, if the charges are true.

Leaving aside the "madness" that Washington spoke of in its comment on the proposal that the Libyan defendants be tried in Libya, the proposal cannot be described as serious or credible, for obvious and well-known reasons. If the Americans see the matter as strictly a judicial one and do not accept the Libyan judiciary as a qualified party, other proposals suggesting trial in a neutral Arab country could be considered; otherwise the crisis would continue, which would not prevent the major powers from imposing sanctions on Libya. A recourse to justice means giving the accuser and the accused equal opportunities to defend their positions. The Libyan side could then raise the issue of the 1986 U.S. air raid on Tripoli, since, unlike the cases of the bombing in the U.S. and French airliners, the criminal and terrorist charges justifying that raid have not been confirmed.

Of course, the United States, Britain, and France do not want such a trial, but the Arab cover provided for Libya by the Arab League has weakened the political aspect of the campaign against Tripoli, at least in the short term. It is not known what would become of that Arab cover if Washington decided to carry its own logic to its conclusion. True, the Arab situation cannot afford another "Iraq," but it is even more true, in the American view, that targeting terrorism by targeting Libya is an effective weapon which could be used in several fields and against several sides or states, particularly in paving the way to an Arab-Israeli settlement.

It is regrettable that, after some absence, the Arab League is returning to the fore through the Lockerbie issue, while at the same time it is excluded from any effective role on other issues more vital and more important to the Arab world and peoples. Perhaps this

position of solidarity with Libya, with its positive and negative aspects, marks the beginning of a return to a cohesive Arab position. Perhaps it will not deter the Arab League itself from seeking a more effective role and presence because, despite everything, the Arabs still need it. The Libyan regime recently needed it and was not disappointed by it.

Gulf Cooperation Council Interior Ministers Meet

LD1112103891 Riyadh SPA in English 1949 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Doha, Dec 10, SPA—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministers of the interior started their tenth meeting here Tuesday under the chairmanship of the Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah al Thani. The Kingdom's delegation to the conference is led by Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz al Sa'ud. Shaykh 'Abdallah addressed the meeting confirming that the GCC is based on the common religion, language, customs and brotherly relations binding its members. He added that the single distiny of the six member states determines their path and thanked the GCC Secretariat General for its fruitful efforts exerted to prepare for such meetings. Furthermore, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah thanked Qatar for hosting the meeting and expressed his confidence that this conference would draw up a suitable framework for the future of the region's security. Later on, the GCC interior ministers held an in-camera working session.

Cairo OAPEC Meeting Concludes 7 Dec

LD0712204591 Riyadh SPA in English 1942 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 7, SPA—The ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) concluded its 47th session in Cairo on Saturday afternoon.

It is noteworthy that the Saudi delegation to the meeting was led by the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham Nazir.

Islamic Affairs

Leaders Continue Speeches; ICO Summit Ends Early

'Arafat Gives Speech 10 Dec

LD1112211191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Speech by PLO President Yasir 'Arafat to the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, meeting in Dakar, Senegal on 10 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] Your excellency, brother President Abdou Diouf of the Republic of Senegal and chairman of the summit; your majesties, excellencies, and highnesses; brother presidents and leaders of delegations; honorable guests, peace and God's prayers and blessings be upon you. [passage omitted] I would like to call on Islamic states to continue their good efforts with the other Islamic states that are not members of our organization, in order to form one body of this nation.

At this time, I would like to express my congratulations to the brotherly people of Yemen for the firm unity it achieved by bringing together the northern and southern parts.

Brother kings, presidents and leaders: This historic conference of ours is being held in extremely critical and important circumstances. Its convening comes between two important events—the end of the Gulf crisis and Gulf war, and, secondly, the current peace efforts in the Middle East. Fraternal Senegal and its brave president, shouldering the responsibility of leading the Islamic conference. [sentence as heard] They carry on their shoulders the huge and great tasks of making more efforts and contacts to restore unification and to close the ranks of our Arab, Islamic nation. They also face existing challenges and current events in which we—as a traditional Islamic nation in its history and its mission—should have a united say and an effective role, especially because a new world order is being established. We should all work so this order will not be at the expense of our peoples, states, and nation nor its right to a free and diginfied life. This will ensure this order will be established on the basis of equality, justice, and peace for all peoples and states of the world.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the brother leaders on naming this session the Session of Holy Jerusalem, Unity, and Concord. The sixth ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] conference is now a Senegalese responsibility. It is a great source of pride for the Senegalese people to play host to this conference at this difficult, historic and fateful time in which our Islamic nation is passing. We see in the convening of this historic summit an appropriate opportunity for closing Islamic ranks once again and unifying the word and increasing the effectiveness of the ICO so that it can confront the challenges. It will be an important occasion for reaffirming the support and backing for the holy jihad of our people and its blessed intifadah, which today enters its fifth year stronger and firmer and more resolved. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chairman and brothers, I put before you the drawing which was published in the magazine of the Israeli airlines which shows, as you see here, this holy shrine—"whose precincts we did bless, in order that we might show him some of our signs, for He is the one who heareth and seeth." [Koranic verse]. This shrine, as you see in this drawing, has been changed into Solomon's Temple—to Solomon's Temple, as you can see in this drawing.

This is what they aim for by judaizing this sacred city. It is not only Islamic sacred places, but also Christian sacred places.

I have confidence in your great commitment to and interest in liberating Holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Brother leaders, Jerusalem is exposed to grave dangers represented by the continuation of the Israeli judaization policy against it and against all the Islamic and Christian sacred places in Palestine, which in its turn faces continuous violations and desecration of its mosques and churches. The faithful and those who want to pray are stopped from entering them, in addition to the confiscation of lands, including the lands of the Islamic and Christian trust land and the building of the settlements to house the emigrant Soviet and other Jews, in order to swallow it and change its religious and demographic features.

The current acts of the Israeli forces of occupation against holy Jerusalem and its blessed sanctities constitutes a blatant violation of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions related to the status of the holy city. They also constitute the biggest defiance of the will of the international community, and the biggest dangerous provocation of our Islamic nation and the feelings of all the faithful. The recent storming by the Israeli forces of occupation and the gangs of armed Jewish settlers of the al-Aqsa Mosque; the Abraham mosque; the holy sepulchre and the Islamic Shari'a Court and the theft of its documents; and the deeds of the awqaf, lands, and properties are shining evidence of the Israeli Government's perseverance in tampering with these sacred things and ignoring all the international laws and conventions and the revealed religions. It is also an unveiled defiance of the feelings of all the faithful in the world, and of all the lovers of freedom, justice and peace in the world. [passage omitted]

The will of our people and their love for just peace were embodied in the Palestinian peace initiative issued by our Palestinian National Council [PNC] in its 19th session in Algiers in 1988, in the resolutions of our PNC at its 20th session in Algiers and in the resolutions of the latest Central Council in Tunis.

You undoubtedly know that the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, has contributed and contributes positively and effectively and in a distinctive manner in order to push forward the peace process in the Middle East and to welcome President Bush's initiative of last March. This initiative was, in part, crowned by the convening of the peace conference in Madrid on 30 October—on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace and the achievement of the political legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the international resolutions and legitimacy and in affirmation of the positive role practised by the PLO. The Palestinian leadership has assumed, in regard to the peace process, the responsibility of its Palestinian delegation to the peace conference and follows its proceedings continuously, affirming its role and responsibility in leading the Palestinian struggle with all its forms. In doing so, it has as a departure point the total trust which the Palestinian people have in their leadership, the PLO.

Events and their development confirm that there will be no peace and no stability in this region unless the Palestinian question, considering that it is the core of the conflict in the region, is solved. No peace will be established until the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent and free state on their national Palestinian land with Holy Jerusalem as its capital, are achieved.

Brother leaders, we know that what is taking place in Washington now is the beginning of a fierce political battle between an enemy without mercy and a people and a nation who have no fear and who do not rest. It is a battle between right and power, between good and evil, between the hateful occupation and those aspiring for freedom, peace and justice.

We are aware that the Israeli enemy has allies and friends in Washington. Yes, it has allies and friends. It is the spoiled child of consecutive United States' Governments. We know that the sponsors of the conference are spoiling it, particularly the United States sponsor who deals with it from the premise of of an ally and a friend. We are aware of this.

It is not the objective arbitrator. It is not an objective referee in this difficult and serious match. However, by our deep belief and our firm determination we are capable of facing up to the obstacles, in the knowledge that this battle is part of our battles in which we are engaged in defense of our children, in defense of our people, in defense of our rights, in defense of our sacred sanctities and in defense of our land.

We are engaged in this battle with belief, right, justice, hard work, sacrifice, giving and holy war in the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Once again, we are proving—in this political round and in the steps for a settlement taking place in Washington—that there can be no peace other than the Palestinian peace and the Arab peace. There will be no peace other than the Palestinian peace and the Arab peace. There will be no stability other than through Islamic determination, Arab will and Palestinian determination. There will be no security other than through the security of our Palestinian people, the security of our Arab nation and the security of our Islamic nation, and on the basis of our constant national, Pan-Arab, religious Islamic and Christian interests.

Palestinian flexibility in dealing with international efforts represented a sincere and brave response. It was a sincere and brave response to deal with international efforts. It was a serious and courageous response to the

general international atmosphere that is heading toward establishing a new world order in which security, stability, and peace would reign on the basis of UN charters and its principles, justice, the protection and respect of the rights of all peoples regarding freedom, peace and independence. This was done despite the unjust conditions, the continuous provocations, and the serious obstacles that Israel's government continues to pose in order to hamper the ongoing peace process.

The Israeli government continues its plans, policies, and aggressions against our Palestinian people despite the beginning of the peace process and the convening of the Madrid conference. Instead of taking measures that contribute to the building of confidence and reflect a serious desire to establish just peace, it continues its crimes against our people, land, and sanctities; it continues its provocative acts and places serious obstacles in an aim to hinder and foil the peace efforts and deflect them from realizing their targets. In this context come repeated Israeli air raids and attacks on our camps, on Lebanese towns and villages in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted].

Mr. Chairman, members, this is Greater Israel, Greater Israel, which Israel is calling for and which it had cast on its coin, the shekel. The Israeli candlestick on the background of the map of Israel which was published by the "Jew Journal" magazine, which is an American Jewish Zionist magazine, shows the state of Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates, so you may wake up, Arabs. Wake up, wake up, Arabs. It consists of all of Palestine, all of Lebanon, all of Jordan, half of Syria, two-thirds of Iraq, one-third of Saudi Arabia up to Al-Medinah, up to Khaybar, and half of Sinai. I did not publish this map. They did in the "Jew Journal" on 19 February 1989.

I confirm in front of you, brothers, that Israel's continuation of the crime of the judaization of Jerusalem, its settlment policy, and the expropriation and annexation of land shall lead to the torpedoing of the political process in progress. Today they refused to meet with our Palestinian delegation. They say there is no Palestinian people. A short while ago I received a telephone call from our delegation: The Israelis do not want to meet our delegation, because they do not recognize the Palestinian people. Its settlement policy and the expropriation and annexation of land will lead to the torpedoing of the political process in progress. Therefore, the halting of the judaization, the expropriation of land and settlement in our occupied Arab and Palestinian territories is a basic matter that should be ensured in order to continue the peace process and secure its success. Without this, this process cannot make progress. This fact should be realized by the two states cosponsoring the conference: the United States and the Soviet Union.

Brother leaders, the holding of the peace conference in Madrid constitutes an opening and strong impetus to a process which will undoubtedly be difficult and hard, toward the achievement of a lofty and noble objective: the establishment of a just peace in the region on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the right of our people to self-determination. It is without doubt an important historic opportunity that should not be missed and should not be reciprocated with an attempt at obstruction, abortion and provocation by the Israeli side. Our Palestinian people, which has struggled hard for more than seven decades for its right to a dignified free life on the soil of its homeland, like the rest of the peoples of region and the world, and in defense of the land and the sanctities, has the courage in all its material and moral forms to deal positively and flexibly with this opportunity. Security and stability are the twins of right, justice and fairness. International legitimacy with its resolutions pertaining to the conflict in the region constitutes an indivisible whole. The policy of double standards in the implementation of the resolutions of this international legitimacy will only lead to more injustice, suffering and wars, and consequently will fail, leading instead to the blowup of the region.

The pillars of our new world order require one single policy without ambiguity and without deception in the implementation of resolutions of international legitimacy concerning the conflict in the Middle East. Thus, the UN bears a big responsibility in keeping an eye on securing, implementing and respecting international legitimacy and its resolutions, otherwise its credibility will be eroded as well as the prestige and credibility of the only superpower in the world now, America.

Brothers leaders, the ICO, from the premise of its concern for reuniting and rallying the ranks of our nation, and uniting its energies and potentials, for the sake of giving it an effective role and an audible voice in efforts under way for the establishment of a new world order based on equality, justice, peace, and security for all without exception on our planet, must assume its responsibility in the peace process currently in progress. The ICO must play its part in achieving tangible progress in the bilateral talks in progress between the concerned sides in Washington, or anywhere else, on the road toward Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, and for the liberation of holy Jerusalem. It should do this by providing positive circumstances, which will allow for the convening of the multilateral conference, which will discuss very sensitive and important matters connected with the future and existence of the region's peoples and states, as well as with international security and peace, such as the issues of water, refugees, development, economy, security, and armaments. From the premise of the importance of this conference, I see that in the event of securing the positive conditions for the holding of this conference, the need for, and the importance of, the participation of the ICO in it. We want you with us, to help us. Do not stand as spectators. Our eagerness for inviting the ICO to take part in this multilateral conference stems from our sincere desire not to see our Islamic nation standing as a spectator in relation to the events and international plans which will have big effect and results in relation to its peoples and generations, now and in the future, and in

relation to the drawing up of the map of the new international order in the region and the world. [passage omitted]

Brother kings, presidents, princes, and leaders; through you I want to address greetings and my appreciation to the African states which stood by us, supporting and backing our issues, and together with us confronted the attempt of Zionist infiltration, despite American pressures and the pressures of the IMF. I would also like to greet and thank our friends in the nonaligned states, and our friends in Europe, China, and Japan as well as the world over who are standing by the side of Palestinian right and the justness and holiness of the Palestinian issue. On this occasion we declare our backing and support for our friends in the African confrontation states and for the friendly people of South Africa, especially the African National Congress and Pan-African Congress in their just struggle for their rights and victory over the hated racist regime. There is an important subject I would like to refer to. It concerns the newly established Islamic communities in France, Britain, Germany and the rest of the European and Scandinavian states. First, I would like to express to them thanks and gratitude for their solidarity on the issues of the Islamic peoples and nation, and with our Palestinian people and the issue of holy Jerusalem. I tell them to safeguard their present gains and to develop them according to the general laws in these societies—the laws which should be respected by all, but to protect all without discrimination in race, or religion or political belief. I would like to tell my Muslim brothers and sisters in Europe that Islam is the religion of justice, tolerance and love. [passage omitted]

The Islamic communities in Europe have become [words indistinct] laws to several gains. Although there are still unsolved problems, democracy and laws in those countries can reach just results that guarantee the rights of these Islamic communities without harming the interests of the majority, a matter that makes these communities live and coexist and develop and flourish under the protection of the law, on condition that they are protected from any fanatism and chauvinism. I call on this conference of ours to give this issue the importance and attention it deserves.

On the basis of all this, we will remain on the side of all the brothers and friends to fight for the establishment of the just and durable solution in the region and for the achievement of the inalienable national rights of our people. We in the PLO will continue the fight and the struggle until the end of the Israeli occupation of our land and sacred things and the achievement of our just aims while waging our battles on all fronts, on our occupied land and in the international spheres. We will fight and struggle on political, diplomatic, and information levels. Our determination will not be dissuaded, and we will not bend until the banners of our nation are raised high over our holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state. This is the will of our people and of our nation, and it is a victorious will, God willing, because it is part of God's will. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, out of the spirit of forgiveness, brotherhood, and amity which our true religion taught us, I call, at this meeting which is gathering all of us Muslims and Arabs, to go beyond the results of the Gulf war and the deep wounds it left in our minds and the minds of our peoples and nation, and to make the spirit of brotherhood, forgiveness, and reconciliation triumph in order to lift the suffering of our peoples, including the people in sister Iraq, whose children are suffering from medicine and food shortages. It should also lift the suffering of the Palestinian people which was the biggest loser in this crisis and who still pay a very high price in hunger, suffering and deportation. Besides, we can only remember the sufferings of the people of sister Kuwait.

We have to sow the seeds of love in the hearts of our coming generations so that they can bear good fruit from which all the peoples of our nation cen benefit. It is the trust of the homeland, the nation, history, religion and the belief. It is the trust of the generations and their future, security and existence. Let us all understand that the real power of any nation stems from within the nation itself and its unity and solidarity. [passage omitted]

We in the PLO, from this rostrum and from this hospitable country and its generous people, we extend our hand with full sincerity, confidence, love, and amity to all our brothers, even to those with whom we differed. Difference in opinion does not affect amity. Let us proceed from this conference of ours on a new page and with hearts full of faith and hope so that we can face the challenges, dangers, and the enemies of our nation and the enemies of the humane life—with its tolerant values and principles—and establish a better present and a more radiant future for present and future generations so they can make, build and advance human civilization.

Jerusalem is calling you; the first of the two qiblahs and the third holy mosques is calling on you for help. The city to which Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, made his flight, and the city which was the birthplace of Jesus, God's peace be upon him, is calling you. It is revolution until victory. Thank you.

Denktas Urges Support for Turkish Cypriots

TA1112191491 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 1630 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Pointing out that it is not true that the Turkish Cypriots are a Muslim minority on a Christian island, President Rauf Denktas has said that he expected moral support and understanding from Islamic countries within the spirit of Islamic solidarity in order to prove this point to the world.

Addressing the sixth summit of the Islamic Conference Organization held in Dakar today, he said that as the second country which has recognized Azerbaijan, the

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [TRNC] welcomed that country's acceptance as an ICO full member. He expressed his hope that the TRNC will also be granted the same status in the near future.

Expressing his gratitude to ICO member-countries for the resolution on Cyprus, Denktas called for the resolution's realization and implementation.

Objecting to the UN secretary general's practice of dispatching to every Islamic summit a message sounding as if the Cyprus problem were about to be solved, Denktas said that this last message also failed to reflect the realities in Cyprus. He added that differences between the two sides in Cyprus continue to exist.

Criticizing the Islamic countries' stand toward the Turkish Cypriot community, Denktas said that he was aware of the problems and difficulties they were facing. Should you fail to be interested in the Cyprus issue and show understanding to the Turkish Cypriot cause, he said, the Greek Cypriots will continue to insist on considering the Turkish Cypriots as a minority.

Denktas recalled that though Turkish Cypriots are able to travel to numerous countries with Turkish Cypriot passports, some Islamic countries refuse to honor these passports. Denktas added that he had therefore felt the need to confer with leaders of the Islamic world to brief them on problems faced by Turkish Cypriots. He continued: You refuse to honor our passports and we are obliged to travel with our Turkish passports. Greek Cypriots are using this opportunity as a tool for their propaganda, claiming that this proves that we in the north are not a real country but a Turkish region under occupation.

What we want from you is only to accept the simple truth, Denktas said, calling on the Islamic countries not to give a hand to Greek Cypriot propaganda efforts trying to show themselves as the only legal government in Cyprus.

Noting that the acceptance of the TRNC application to become a full-fledged ICO member will serve as a defensive tool in the struggle to prove that the Turkish Cypriots are not a minority in a Greek and Christian island, he explained that the acceptance of such an application will also give the necessary message to the Greek Cypriots to the effect that Turkish Cypriots have equal political rights in the island.

UAE Condemns Iraq, Hails Peace Talks

JN1112195291 Manama WAKH in English 1643 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 11 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates today denounced Iraq for defying international legitimacy and said its invasion of Kuwait last year was an aggression on all Muslims.

In an address to the Islamic summit here, the UAE also urged solutions to the Palestinian, Lebanese and Afghan problems.

"Out of our keenness on stability in the Gulf, we stress the need for the implementation of international resolutions," it said in the speech, distributed to the summit delegates today.

"The UAE also rejects attempts by the Iraqi regime to push the region again to a situation that will threaten peace and split the Islamic nation."

It said the presence of thousands of Kuwaitis in Iraqi jails is a "flagrant illustration of the savagery of that regime and a clear-cut proof of its violation of international norms."

"The Iraqi aggression last year was against not only Kuwait and its amir, but on the entire Islamic world and the Islamic Conference Organisation" it said.

"It posed a difficult test for the organisation and today we express relief to see the organisation face the crisis and emerge stronger and more determined to translate Islamic solidarity into reality."

The UAE praised the ICO for condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and deplored that Baghdad failed to heed peace calls.

"The Iraqi regime ignored the decisions of the ICO and United Nations and persisted in its oppression motivated by an instinct of hatred, greed and aggression," it said.

It congratulated Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah for the liberation of his emirate in February.

Turning to the Middle East, the UAE welcomed peace negotiations between Arabs and Israel but stressed there would be no peace without achieving Palestinian rights.

"We realise that real peace can not be established in the Middle East unless there is a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian problem, which is the crux of the Middle East crisis," it said.

"We are meant with a real peace that will establish justice and restore legitimate rights to their owners on the basis of land for peace and U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338."

It said any Middle East peace settlement must include Jerusalem, which is "part and parcel of the occupied Arab territories."

The UAE also called for implementation of the Arab-sponsored al-Ta'if agreement to restore peace to Lebanon and condemned Israel's occupation of south Lebanon.

"We strongly support Lebanon's demands for implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolutin 425 calling for Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon," it said.

It reaffirmed commitment to the Damascus Declaration, set up after the end of the Gulf War by the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Egypt and Syria.

Regarding Afghanistan, the UAE hoped the problem would be resolved soon and urged Islamic support for the Muslim people there.

It also called for backing Muslim minorities around the world, saying many of them were not enjoying their political social and religious rights.

ICO Chairman Gives Closing Speech

LD1212132691 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 12, SPA—The sixth Islamic summit concluded its sessions in the Senegalese capital of Dakar late last night. Addressing the summit's final session, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, the summit's chairman, hailed the [Saudi] kingdom's decision to waive debts of least developed OIC member states and its dlrs 10 million donation for boosting the OIC and its programmes. President Diouf hoped that other countries will follow the kingdom. President Diouf said the positive results achieved by the summit will be reflected on the procession of the joint Islamic action through the OIC. He added that the final results of the summit and the giving of al-Qods name to the summit, reflected the keenness of the OIC member states to preserve the Islamic solidarity and unity. President Diouf reaffirmed his keeness to exert his utmost efforts to boost the Islamic solidarity and realise the peace and security of all Muslims worldwide. The final session was addressed by Turkish President Turgut Ozal on behalf of the Asian group in the OIC, Malian President Amadou Toure on behalf of the African group and Syrian Vice president 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on behalf of the Arab group. All speeches concentrated on the importance of the joint Islamic action and support to the resolutions of the sixth summit.

'Arafat 'Stormed Out' of Closing Session

AU1212083391 Paris AFP in English 0402 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Hala Khouri Boncompagni report]

[Text] Dakar, Dec 12 (AFP) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Wednesday [11 December] wrapped up its sixth annual summit a full day ahead of schedule, and after many key participants had already voted with their feet by leaving for home.

The closing hours of the conference, which was marked from the start by the non-attendance of many leading Arab heads of state, saw a clash between host president Abdou Diouf of Senegal and the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat stormed out of the closing session after Diouf, presiding, refused him permission to speak a second time on a section of the final declaration relating to the occupied territories.

The PLO leader had fought unsuccessfully against the dropping from the text of the word "jihad" (holy war) to describe the fight against Israeli occupation of the territories.

Earlier in the conference 'Arafat had suffered another humiliation when Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin 'Abd al-Aziz of Saudi Arabia turned away and refused to embrace him, only shaking his hand instead, conference sources said.

The dropping of the word "jihad" to describe efforts to liberate Jerusalem and Arab occupied territories from Israeli rule broke with a tradition that has marked final resolutions ever since the creation of the OIC in 1971.

Addressing wealthy Arab Gulf states who in the past have financed the PLO in its struggle against Israel, 'Arafat pleaded that he could do without money or weapons "but don't take away the jihad. Leave us the word."

Senegalese Foreign Minister Djibo Ka defended the wording of the declaration. "The political situation has changed. The OIC summit encourages the current Middle East peace process on the basis of the exchange of land for peace," he told a press conference.

In his closing speech Diouf later reaffirmed his support and friendship for 'Arafat, but it had been clear from the start that the PLO leader's presence at the meeting was a central focus for discontent and absenteeism. Moderate Arab leaders are deeply angry at the PLO's perceived support for Iraq during the Gulf war, and many have cut off funds formerly supplied to the organisation as a result.

Only six out of 21 Arab heads of state attended the summit, which was the first of its kind to take place in sub-Saharan Africa. Many of the leaders who stayed away, such as Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak apparently wanted to avoid having to share a platform with 'Arafat, analysts said.

After his walk-out on Wednesday, the PLO leader tried to hold a press conference to voice his discontent, but he was quickly brought back into the conference room by Gabonese President Omar Bongo.

In his closing statement President Diouf criticised the Arab absenteeism. Asian diplomats also expressed deep disappointment. One Asian diplomat charged that too much OIC time was being given to Arab issues, thus ignoring the need to secure mechanisms for promoting technical, financial and food cooperation.

"The Arabs are immature," an Arab diplomat said. He predicted a worsening of Arab-African relations as a result of the conference. "The clouds must dissipate before the Arabs can come to terms," a Moroccan diplomat said.

Among other measurs in the final statement were an appeal for greater intra-OIC cooperation to pave the way

for the creation of an Islamic Common Market. Another, the first of its kind ever, was devoted to promoting the role of women in Islamic society.

Review of Initiatives in ICO Summit Declaration

Palestinian Struggle Supported

LD1212002191 Tehran IRNA in English 2024 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 11, IRNA—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] is determined to combat the Zionist occupation of Palestinian lands and other Arab territories and condemns all those who assist this aggression by giving the Zionist entity political, economic and military support.

The declaration of the sixth Islamic summit held in the Senegalese capital of Dakar which ended a day ahead of the schedule Wednesday night, put a special emphasis on the question of Palestine. The Dakar summit was named the "al-Quds al-Sharif summit and leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat was elected vice-chairman of the summit.

The Dakar declaration on political matters is based on 22 political resolutions discussed and adopted by the OIC foreign ministers during their three-day preparatory meeting before the opening of the summit Monday.

It rejected initiatives which are not consistent with Palestinian call for self-determination, their right to return to their homeland and their right to establish [word indistinct] independent Palestinian state.

The OIC reaffirmed its resolve to confront the aggression with all means at its disposal in order to liberate the occupied Palestine and Arab territories and the holy places.

It said the liberation struggle will remain "the prime cause of this generation until God willing, al-Quds al-Sharif and all the occupied Arab territories are restored to their legitimate owners."

It also pledged the determination of the 45-member organization to "act together to uphold and promote the diginity of all Muslims."

It stressed that the OIC memners will seek to develop further and consolidate their bilateral and multilateral relations.

The OIC members in their mutual and international relations will refrain from threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

The member states will abide by the principles of non-intervention and non-interference in their mutual relations and the international frontiers of all members shall be respected and regarded as inviolable.

The OIC members are to settle their disputes by peaceful means and to this end they will use negotiations, mediation and conciliation and will employ the full potentials of the OIC in this respect.

The Dakar declaration also pledges support for self-determination and just struggle of people under colonial or alien domination of foreign occupation.

Any threat to the securtiy of an Islamic country is a threat to the security of the Islamic countries and all members should assist to remove such threats and to strenghten the security and stability of all Islamic countries by undertaking appropriate measures.

The OIC members individually and collectively endeavour to protect and promote the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in non-member states.

They also pledge to strengthen joint Islamic action in the humanitarian fields in particular to ease the sufferings of the refugees and displaced persons.

Common Markets To Be Established

LD1212002491 Tehran IRNA in English 2029 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 11, IRNA—Members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are to establish common markets at regional and sub-regional levels and conclude multilateral and inter-governmental agreements for the long term development of intra- Islamic trade.

The OIC declaration on economic issues defining the general orientation of the sixth summit in economic affairs and cooperation in the fields of science and technology, was issued here Wednesday night at the closing of the sixth summit meeting which ended a day ahead of the schedule.

The OIC memers are to work to remove obstacles to the development of intra-Islamic trade.

Members of the 45-member organization are to work towards establishing an "effective and efficient network of information relating to economic, commercial, financial and monetary matters so as to encourage economic contacts among member states."

According to the declarations based on the resolutions passed by the economic committee, the OIC members are to make efforts to reduce tariff and other barriers hindering bilateral and multilateral trade.

They are also to promote industrial cooperation, establish "joint industrial ventures including joint production and sale, construction and exchange of technical ionformation as well as pooling of the capital resources for such production."

The member states will work to build and improve efficient transportation and communication networks including roads, rails, aviation qnd shipping lines.

They are to intensify efforts to promote intra-Islamic cooperation in scientific and technological fields, and work out mechanisms for exchange and dissemination of scientific and technological research and cooperation among them setting up of institutes of higher education.

Preservation of Islamic Values Urged

LD1212002791 Tehran IRNA in English 2032 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 11, IRNA—The final statement on cultural cooperation and activities for the 45-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) issued here Wednesday night stressed preserving and promoting common Islamic heritage.

The OIC members are to intensify efforts individually or collectively to promote a better awareness among the Muslim youth about the noble values of Islam.

They are to protect the Islamic heritage as well as monuments and other artifacts of Islamic culture and civilization in non-member states against any act of degradation or desecration.

The member states are to undertake special programs in educational institutions and through the media to "fortify the moral calibre of Muslim peoples and societies." They are also to strengthen intra-Islamic information networks.

Summit Declaration Summarized

LD1212145291 Rabat MAP in English 1407 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 12 (MAP)—The sixth summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference wound up here late Wednesday evening with the adoption of the Dakar Declaration, which sets out the major principles and bases of cooperation between the OIC member countries.

Closing the summit's proceedings, Senegalese President and OIC Chairman Abdou Diouf expressed satisfaction over the summit's positive results.

Abdou Diouf stressed confirmation of Islamic solidarity, citing as examples Saudi Arabia's decision to cancel debts owed to it by eight Islamic least developed countries, the decision to increase the capital of the Islamic Development Bank to enhance development in the Islamic world, and the taking into account by the summit of a number of pressing problems plaguing a number of OIC member countries, mainly land-locked states and those affected by natural disasters. Among other things, the declaration reaffirms member states' commitment to joint efforts to defend all Islamic causes, particularly including that of al-Qods, to face the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and other arab territories occupied since 1967, and to continue to reject and oppose Israeli plans and practices so as to re-establish the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The Islamic countries reject all initiatives which do no subscribe to a just settlement of the Palestinian issue, including creation of an independent Palestinian state on its national territory under the PLO leadership, legitimate and unique representative of the Palestinian people.

The summit hailed the ongoing mideast peace process to establish a "just and global peace on the bases of UN Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula.

The Declaration also called on the OIC member countries' to avoid threatening or using force against the territorial integrity and political independence of any other country.

The Islamic countries condemned terrorism, emphasizing their firm resolve to cooperate with the international community in the efforts exerted "within the framework of legality and the respect of international law to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and practices.

They commit themselves to the principles of non-intervention and non-interference in their respective internal affairs and consider as "inviolable" the internationally recognized frontiers. They also pledge to have recourse to peaceful means in the settlement of their disputes and consider that any threat against an OIC member country is a threat against international peace and security, including those of the member states.

In the economic field, the declaration expressed the Islamic countries' commitment to reduce and to progressively eliminate all kinds of obstacles hindering development of inter-Islamic trade, and to encourage in the future application of the principle of the most privileged nation.

In this regard, the declaration urged the member countries to take the appropriate measures to lift all barriers and ponder on other means to boost inter-Islamic economic and commercial cooperation and promote economic integration at the regional and sub-regional levels with the aim of creating an Islamic common market.

In the field of industry, the Islamic countries agreed to enhance cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels through the setting up of joint-venture industrial projects under OIC auspices.

The member states are also appealed to joint efforts in the fields of transports, communications, roads, ports airports, maritime routes at the bilateral, regional and sub-regional levels.

Regarding Africa, the member states affirm their support to the continent which, they said, is one of the milestones of the Islamic common action.

In the cultural field, the OIC member countries proclaim that belief in the same Islamic spiritual values is the "very essence of OIC they are resolved to preserve for the benefit of Islamic nation". The need to develop the

Islamic educational and cultural values and disseminate the Islamic teachings worldwide in the framework of cooperation between the states and respect of their sovereignty were also stressed by the declaration.

In the social field, calls were made for a greater participation of women in the Islamic countries in view of their particular role in the socio-economic development in the Islamic society.

In the field of information, the Islamic countries agreed to upgrade bilateral and multilateral cooperation to ensure a flow of information between the member countries through a better use of telecommunications and other modern satellite communications.

Secretary General on Islamic Development Bank Aid

LD1112162391 Rabat MAP in English 1356 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 11, (MAP)—Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid al-Gabid said that OIC member states are not fully making use of aid funds from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for development means and facilities projects. Established in 1975, according to Al-Gabid in his report to the 6th OIC conference here, the financial assets of IDB amounted to two billion Islamic dinars (equivalent to USD 2.6 billion). The funds are allocated for aid projects, Technical assistance, trade funding and special operations such as IDB scholarship programs. IDB is an international financial institution, a concrete economic cooperation among the OIC member states, to improve the economy of predominantly Muslim populated countries.

Saudi Minister Lauds Bank's Role

LD1112162991 Riyadh SPA in English 1237 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 11, SPA—Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy, said last night the sixth Islamic summit conference has adopted a resolution to formulate a new strategy for economic cooperation among the Muslim countries. The Permanent Committee for Economic Cooperation, headed by Turkish president, has been assigned to formalize bases for this strategy, Aba-al-Khayl told the Saudi television last night. Economic cooperation among the Muslim countries has made big strides and it is high time to start a new era of economic cooperation in the light of the international changes, he said. On the role of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank [IDB], Aba-al-Khayl said the IDB has so far scored great accomplishments. He noted that the Islamic summit conference has approved enhancement of the IDB's resources. The IDB can play a pioneering role in supporting the developing countries, he said. Aba-al-Khayl highlighted the great attention given by the Kingdom to the African-coast countries. He noted that the Saudi program, announced by Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz before the sixth Islamic summit conference, pertaining to rural development in the African-coast countries constitutes a Saudi contribution to assist these countries. The Kingdom has already extended assistance and facilities to the Muslim communities in the desert in south and and central Africa, he said.

Leaders Continue To Meet at Sideline Sessions

Algerian, Soviet Republic Leaders Meet

LD0912111991 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 9 (APS)—Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Algerian minister of foreign affairs, held talks on Sunday morning in the margin of the works of the O.I.C 6th summit preparatory ministerial conference due to be held in Dakar from Dec 9 to 12 with representatives of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan Muslim republics.

The works of the ministerial conference carried on by the examination at a plenary session of numerous economic, political and socio-cultural draft resolutions. They finally took end on Sunday. [sentence as received]

Saudi Crown Prince Meets Iranian President

LD1212001391 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, received His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, after the opening session of the 6th Islamic Conference Organization summit today. During the meeting, the two sides had cordial talks and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries. They also examined issues of common interest concerning the Muslim world and the overall situation in the region.

The meeting was attended by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister; Generel Moshen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps; and Yaser Rafsanjani, the son of the Iranian president. On the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Muhammad al-Fayiz,e minister of labor and social affairs; 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, assistant deputy commander of the National Guard; Muhammad 'Ali al-Shaykh, head of royal protocol; and 'Abdallah Tuwayshi, Saudi ambassador in Dakar.

'Arafat Meets Chadian President

LD1112000191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] The brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the State of Palestine, affirmed that the first round of peace talks which took place in Madrid was

successful, with the Palestinian and Arab side taking successful steps in expressing our desire for the establishment of a just and true peace in the Middle East region and in Palestine, the land of peace. But regrettably, the Israeli enemy, and behind it an international power, are still obstructing the peace steps. This became clear in Washington where, up to now, obstacles have been placed in the way of bilateral talks.

President Abu-'Ammar's statement came after his meeting with the Chadian President Idriss Deby in Dakar on the sidelines of the work of the sixth summit of the Islamic Conference Organization, the session of Jerusalem, harmony, and unity. The meeting concentrated on developments in the Palestinian cause, bilateral Chadian- Palestinian relations, and ways of developing them. At the end of the meeting the Chadian president gave the brother President Abu-Ammar a present, an antique, handwritten copy of the Holy Koran. The meeting was also attended by the Chadian foreign minister.

SAIRI Leader Arrives for Talks

NC1112221391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has arrived in Dakar to attend the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit there. Our well-informed external sources say that his eminence will address the conferees on the rights of our Muslim people. Al-Hakim will also present the heads of the Islamic states with a plan for the future of our Iraq, a plan involving free elections. Our sources add that al-Hakim is holding bilateral talks in Dakar with a number of Arab and Islamic leaders.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets UK Muslims

LD1112174491 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 11, IRNA—Three British Muslim delegates attending the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit here on Tuesday met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at his residence and briefed him on the status of Muslims in Britain. One of them told the president that the "important" speech he delivered at the summit deeply impressed them and further consolidated their belief that the Islamic Republic was leading the Muslim world. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Islamic Republic with its religious nature will stand to the last for the sake of the dignity and honor of Islam, the Koran and prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him). The president also had a separate meeting with a group of Senegalese ulema who lauded the Islamic Republic for caring about the problems of the Muslim world and inspiring hopes in the hearts of Muslims. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Senegalese people for their attitudes towards the Islamic Republic and revolution.

Libya's al-Bishari Meets Leaders

LD1112174591

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of brief reports monitored at FBIS London Bureau from Tripoli JANA in English on meetings Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for external liaison and international cooperation, held on the sidelines of the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit in Senegal. All reports are datelined Dakar, 11 December; GMT times follow each entry.

NIGER

"The prime minister of Niger appreciated highly the huge efforts exerted by the great al-Fatih revolution for the triumph and victory of Islam around the world." During his meeting with al-Bishari, the prime minister "asserted the deep relations that link between the two friendly peoples in the great jamahiriyah and Niger, along the ages. The prime minister of Niger called for the consolidation of the two countries efforts for their joint benefits." On his part, al-Bishari "expressed the readiness of the great jamahiriyah to co- operate with Niger, on the widest possible scale." (1449)

KUWAIT

The Kuwaiti amir met al-Bishari on 10 December and "reviewed the brotherly relations between the Arab peoples in Libya and Kuwait," as well as the Islamic summit proceedings. (1451)

UGANDA

Uganda's deputy prime minister met al-Bishari on 10 December on "the aspects of co-operation between the two countries." (1452)

CHAD

Chadian President Idriss Deby met al-Bishari on 10 December and "reviewed the two sisterly countries bilateral relations." (1454)

Syria's Khaddam Meets Saudi Foreign Minister

JN1112162191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, 11 Dec (SANA correspondent)—In Dakar this morning, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

During the meeting, discussion centered on the situation in the region, and the latest developments in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Egypt

Mubarak on Libya, Appointment of Vice President

NC1112220391 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Dec 91 p 7

["Text" of interview with President Husni Mubarak by AL-SIYASAH chief editor Ahmad al-Jarallah in Cairo, date not given; published in Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 7 December]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, what is Egypt's position regarding the charges leveled against Libya in connection with the U.S. airliner incident, particularly since the charges are corroborated by the affected party?

[Mubarak] The United States thinks that the charges are confirmed. The U.S. press occasionally says something different. In any event, we are trying, through our relations with the United States, to find a solution to this crisis. I have spoken to President [as published] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to establish movement in the right direction so that matters will not get more complicated than they already are.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, do you think that it is possible the United States will carry out military action against Libya?

[Mubarak] Military action is one of the options that has been raised. But I do not think that the U.S. Administration will carry out such action. This is one of the most rational U.S. Administrations I have ever known. The U.S. Administration cannot strike people and kill innocent civilians over an incident in which the Libyan people had absolutely no say.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, what is your view regarding the security arrangements in the Gulf after the liberation of Kuwait, particularly as I see that the Damascus agreement has not achieved the desired goal?

[Mubarak] All I can say on this important issue is that the security arrangements for the Gulf states must stem from the Gulf states themselves. We cannot impose any security arrangements on our brothers in the Gulf. But if they need anything from us, we will not hesitate. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, there is an issue that is always discussed by the Egyptian people and you have tried in a diplomatic way not to respond to it. When will a vice president be appointed?

[Mubarak] The Constitution stipulates how rule should be transferred from one president to the other. Even if I appoint a vice president, he will not necessarily become president. If I appoint a vice president and he is unqualified, the people will not choose him as president. I got to be vice president during al-Sadat's presidency. Had I not been qualified, the parliament would not have nominated me and the people would not have approved my nomination as president. I am supposed to appoint one or more vice presidents? When I find a person I can present to the people who is able to shoulder the responsibility, I will do so.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, regarding the government, you always say that you do not like to change governments. Is this still true?

[Mubarak] Yes, it is. [passage omitted] The question is not that of changing individuals. We are involved in an economic reform process on the basis of a plan, which demands a stable government. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, are you satisfied with the Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement? Do the Egyptian people support it?

[Mubarak] The Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement has existed for some time. Rapprochement means dealing with, not just embracing. We had a problem in the past, but we are dealing with each other to the extent possible. I do not wish to elaborate more. [passage omitted]

Paper Warns of U.S.-Libyan Crisis 'Escalation'

NC1012104191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM warns of the danger of the escalation of the crisis between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France.

The paper notes that the deadlocked situation is no longer only about the handover of the accused Libyans to the West. The West is now searching for evidence to implicate Libyan officials.

In its editorial today, the paper emphasizes the danger of escalating the situation. The paper says that the Middle East needs stability and calm because retaliation will scatter the settlement efforts, create problems, and arouse feelings that took a long time to control and reign. A retaliatory measure, it adds, especially a military one, might invite countermeasures after which an episode of violence will begin. If this happens, the terrorism file will be opened again.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM points out that settling crises by retaliatory violence would set a new precedence in international behavior at this time of a new world order. If this does in fact happen, it will mark a frustrating and disappointing chapter in history, in addition to its grave consequences.

Al-Baz, Soviet Ambassador Discuss Peace Efforts

NC0712135191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with the Soviet ambassador to Cairo today. The ambassador said they discussed Middle East developments and the current peace efforts. He noted

that the USSR will host the Middle East multilateral talks in Moscow on 28 and 29 January 1992. He added that the USSR is carrying out contacts in order to ease the tension between Libya and the United States and find a peaceful solution to their dispute.

Naji al-Ghatrifi, the Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, stated that Egypt hopes the peace process will proceed in a manner that will produce sufficient progress so that the multilateral negotiations will be useful and effective.

Al-Sharif Returns From Gulf Tour With Messages

NC0812213391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo from Kuwait this evening at the end of a seven-day tour that took him to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Bahrain, Oman, and Kuwait. Al-Sharif delivered messages from President Husni Mubarak to the heads of these states.

The information minister also took part in the celebrations marking the UAE national day.

In an arrival statement, al-Sharif said that his visit was of a political nature represented by President Husni Mubarak's messages to the heads of these states. These messages, al-Sharif added, demonstrated President Mubarak's desire to continue consultations with the Arab leaders in connection with international changes and their repercussions on the region and to follow up on issues of mutual concern. The information minister said that he will deliver messages from the leaders of these states to President Mubarak.

In his statement, al-Sharif said that his talks in the UAE covered a number of information issues including the Egyptian Space Channel transmission. He said that his discussions with Bahraini officials dealt with the extension of transmission hours and joint information production.

The information minister met in Kuwait with Kuwaiti Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub and discussed with him the means to promote and strengthen information work, particularly since the Voice of Kuwait transmits from Cairo.

The information minister said that his talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart touched on the UN resolutions concerning the prisoners who are still being held in Iraq and the return of the articles stolen from Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation. The talks also dealt with the issue of the demarcation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq, al-Sharif added.

Musa Denies Attempt To Influence Vote on Zionism

NC1012105691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Excerpts] London, 10 Dec (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has denied that Egypt has urged Arab and Islamic countries to abstain from voting on a U.S. draft to revoke a UN resolution equating Zionism with racism.

In a statement to the Lebanese newspaper AL-HAYAH [word indistinct] today, Abu-Jabir said that the Islamic countries' foreign ministers debated the issue in Dakar and decided that the Arab stand opposing the abrogation of the resolution must remain unchanged. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Musa told the Lebanese paper that the Arab foreign ministers are still discussing the issue, noting that they will meet for a third time. He said that contacts are also underway with Arab delegations in New York to learn of the developments there. Musa denied that Egypt has urged the Islamic countries to abstain from voting on the abrogation resolution. [passage omitted]

Italy To Lend $101 Million for Electric Projects

NC0812213991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Italy has agreed to finance a number of Egyptian electric projects to provide the necessary power supply to industrial and construction projects in Egypt, Minister of Electricity Mahir Abazah said today.

Engineer Abazah added that Italy agreed to provide three soft loans, amounting to $101 million, for the electricity sector. The loans will be repaid over 40 years with one percent interest. The first loan of $70 million will be used to complete construction of the Asyut power plant, while the second loan of $18 million will finance the establishment of 10 power transformer plants to back up the national program for the electrification of rural areas and provide necessary power to local industries. The third loan of $13 million will finance the purchase of 10 km of 220 volt electric cables.

Libya

Officials Discuss Implications of Lockerbie Case

Investigating Judge Cited

PM1112170491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "At a Press Conference Attended by AL-HAYAH, Libyan Judge Investigating the Lockerbie Incident Says: Our Law Prevents Extradition of Our Own Nationals; Investigation Is Continuing and We Do Not Know When It Will End"]

[Text] Tripoli, AL-HAYAH—Counselor Ahmad Tahir al-Zawi, the Libyan judge investigating the charges leveled at two Libyan citizens of causing the Pan Am airplane to crash near the village of Lockerbie in Scotland on 21 December 1982 [date as published], has stated that the laws of Libyan criminal procedure do not under any circumstances allow any Libyan citizens to be handed over for trial in a foreign state, whatever the charges brought against them.

At a press conference in his office in Tripoli yesterday, attended by AL-HAYAH, Judge al-Zawi, a Libyan Supreme Court counselor, refused to set a date for completion of the investigation. The two men, he said, have been placed under precautionary detention and are not allowed to travel or leave their homes. He also refused to regard them as defendants and stressed that Libyan law generally stipulates that anyone found guilty of a crime that claims one or more lives is punishable by death. He announced that he still has not received from the British and U.S. authorities concerned any reply to his request for the documents and investigation files which led to the conclusion that these two persons were behind the crime.

He said: "After the bill of indictment in the case in question was announced by the Scottish attorney general and then by the British attorney general, and three years after the incident, the chief justice of the U.S. District of Columbia announced the indictment of the Libyan citizens on the charge of planning the incident. When the Libyan authorities were informed of the charges, they were supposed to refer the matter to the investigation authorities concerned in Libya, that is, the attorney general's office. However, because of the importance of the matter and because it was an ugly incident and an abominable crime, it was decided to choose a Supreme Court counselor to investigate the case." He added: "Since the Supreme Court is totally independent of all other state authorities as regards the appointment of its members, its budget, and the appointment of its members by any authority other than its own General Assembly are concerned, the Assembly has agreed to assign me personally to the task of investigating the U.S. airliner's crash." In reply to a question, he said that "this is the first time that such a thing has happened in Libya."

Counselor al-Zawi said that the accused "are under precautionary detention in their homes, not precautionary imprisonment, and that they are not allowed to leave their homes or the country, and are under strict guard."

In reply to another question, he said: "So far all there has been are indictments from the Scottish attorney general, who referred the case to the British attorney general, who ordered their arrest. When the Libyan authorities were informed of that, we asked these parties to choose one of the following three solutions, and inform us officially through the embassies looking after their interests in Libya:

1. Give us a copy of the investigation files and documents which led them to conclude that these two persons committed that crime.

2. Issue an order to enable us to see these documents and investigation files.

3. Arrange a meeting between me, the British attorney general, and the U.S. chief justice to discuss the matter within the framework of the law, and not the framework of politics, the press, or the media in general. I very much regret to say that no reply has been received yet."

When told that that request was publicly rejected by the British foreign office, he said: "So far I have not officially received such a reply. Perhaps it is on its way to us."

He added: "I have also officially asked the Maltese authorities to allow us to go to Malta to follow up the required legal procedures, because the British bill of indictment contains a reference to Maltese witnesses and also says that the flight of the doomed airliner began in Malta."

He was asked: What methods of questioning will you use with the two persons in question?

He replied: "We have our methods of questioning. I do not have the British documents to be able to agree with what Britain is saying. If there is sufficient evidence that these two individuals, or others, committed the crime, then they would be referred to the relevant courts in Libya after the bill of indictment is issued."

He was asked: Would they stand trial here in Libya?

He replied: "The Libyan law is clear. It stipulates that any Libyan citizen who commits a crime abroad and then returns to Libya will be referred to Libyan justice.... There is a bill of indictment that states that these two persons committed a crime. That requires that we question them. We are now investigating the matter. An indictment will be issued if we find, or if it is proved to us, that these two people did actually commit the crime or were parties to it. An indictment would then be issued and they would be referred to the appropriate court. [no closing quote marks as published]

He was asked: What is the penalty under Libyan law if the charge against the two men is proved?

He replied: "Article 296 of the law stipulates that acts, with intent to kill, which endanger public safety are punishable by a minimum of 10 years' imprisonment. The same article stipulates that if such an act results in the death of one or more people then the penalty is death by hanging."

In reply to another question regarding the possibility of handing these two people over, he replied: "I personally do not know of any state that hands over to another state its own citizens who have committed a crime in that

state. For example, if British citizens committed a crime in Nigeria, would Britain hand them over to Nigeria to stand trial?"

He added: "We apply our law, Libyan law. The Tokyo and Montreal agreements state that in such cases the laws of the states concerned should apply. Our law absolutely forbids us to surrender the citizens in question."

Asked about the date when the two men were placed under precautionary detention, he said: "They were brought to my office last Wednesday. Since then they have been under precautionary detention and house arrest under strict guard in their homes."

In reply to another question, he said: "There are agreements between Libya and a number of states for extraditing criminals, provided that the wanted person is not Libyan."

To another quetion, he replied "we have started the investigations. Nobody knows when they will end. They will take their course for as long as God wills. The others spent three years investigating. We have just started."

In reply to another question, he refused to described the two men in question as the "accused." He stressed that he wanted to see the file on the charges and the investigations relating to the case in order to be able to specifically determine the course of action.

Al-Zawi was asked whether Libyan law covers terrorism-related crimes. He replied: "I know that there is a law which stipulates punishment for such crimes as downing planes, sinking ships, or planting explosives on them, but why should we insist that they are terrorist? To me they are crimes of violence."

He was again asked: "Are you going to hand these two people over?"

He replied: "Under what law is that possible? Under what agreement? I personally do not know of any state that surrenders its citizens who commit a crime in another state to the state that requests their extradition. Has such a thing ever happened before? Where? Tell me.... Libyan law does not allow this at all. Article 493 of the Libyan criminal procedure law stipulates that accused or convicted persons may be handed over when the prerequisites are met in connection with the act on which basis the extradition request is made, provided the request does not concern Libyan citizens."

In reply to another question, he denied the existence of any treaties or agreements between Libya and other states in that connection. He said that "nobody would agree to be dragged by the ear and handed over to another state to stand trial. There is no such thing."

Asked whether he felt insulted because Libya has been asked to hand over the accused persons, he replied: "I do not feel insulted. The Western media claims that Libyan justice is subject to the authorities and is not impartial are regrettable. Thank God, these claims are made by the media and not by official or judicial circles. I personally shudder when such claims are made about my country's justice and even when they are made about any judiciary system in the world."

He was asked: Would you allow us to visit the accused?

He replied: "Who said they are accused? They (in the West) have said that, but we have not. We have asked them to send us the documents charging these two people. They refused. We did not initiate the investigations in order to say that these two people are accused or not. These two people are suspected of committing that crime. That is all."

Al-Bishari on Developments

PM1112163291 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 91 p 5

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, by Raghidah Dirgham in Dakar; date not given]

[Text] [Dirgham] It is clear that the United States insists on the Libyan defendants in the Lockerbie incident being handed over, while you insist that they stand trial in Libya. So why do you not hand them over so that Libya will not suffer economic sanctions or a military strike, which President George Bush has not ruled out?

[Al-Bishari] It is not a matter of handing over two individuals, but a matter of international legal principles and important provisions of the UN Charter, and also of dealings between states. These principles stipulate that no independent, sovereign state may hand its citizens over to another state except on one condition, namely, if there is an agreement on the exchange of criminals. So the handover of Libyan citizens—whether the suspects or accused or others—automatically nullifies the Libyan state's sovereignty and independence.

We received two indictments from Scottish judges and the District of Columbia prosecutor in the United States. We responded logically, reasonably, responsibly, and seriously. We told them that there is a judiciary in Libya and that the competent authorities have appointed a judge. This judge initiated contacts with them and said he would open an investigation and would detain the defendants. This is what has happened; he did have them detained.

[Dirgham] Detained, not imprisoned?

[Al-Bishari] There is no difference; they are in prison.

[Dirgham] In an ordinary prison or a guest residence?

[Al-Bishari] I do not know where the judge put them. What is important is that he applied the law applying to them; he arrested and jailed them and contacted the

(U.S. and British) authorities, emphasizing his willingness to cooperate and to proceed from the investigations conducted and the outcome reached. Let us assume that they really are guilty. Provide us with the evidence and proof of their guilt and let us begin a serious investigation of them. If found guilty, they will be tried fairly and openly, before all states of the world. If they prove innocent, it is another matter. It is a matter of principle. Can the United States—without an agreement between us—hand over a U.S. citizen who has committed a crime in Libya? Would it agree to hand over to us the U.S. pilots who raided Libya in 1986, killing 400 Libyan citizens?

[Dirgham] These are two different matters, at least from the U.S. viewpoint. Are you comparing them?

[Al-Bishari] No, I am not comparing, but giving an example. The important thing is for the United States to agree for the defendants to stand trial in Libya under the supervision of an international committee. We have agreed to the participation of U.S. and British judges, and to the trial's being open and fair, since we have nothing to hide.

[Dirgham] Are you inviting U.S., British, and other judges to go to Libya to conduct the investigation, or will you invite them after the Libyan investigation, if an open trial is conducted?

[Al-Bishari] There are two stages. The first is the participation of the U.S. and British judges and the lawyer of the families of the victims (of the incident) to monitor the investigation and verify its impartiality. If the defendants are found guilty and the trial begins, the Libyan judge will judge them in the presence of other lawyers or observer judges to ensure the trial's impartiality.

[Dirgham] What was the reply when you officially presented the proposal concerning the participation of Western judges in the investigation and emphasized your willingness to start the investigation, proceeding from the evidence and proof available to the U.S., British, and other authorities?

[Al-Bishari] We conveyed these proposals to them through the known diplomatic channels nearly a week ago, but we have still not received a reply. We are awaiting an official reply because we do not rely much on what is said publicly through the media.

[Dirgham] What will Libya do if the reply is negative?

[Al-Bishari] In every case, we apply the logic prevailing in this world. Libya lives in this world and is part of it, and what applies to the other states applies to us. We do not want to receive special treatment.

We said that we are against terrorism, and we adopted a position condemning the Lockerbie operation, which we regard as a great crime that claimed innocent lives. We said that the guilty parties must be punished, even if they are these two (Libyans). It is in our our interest to know the truth, since we are innocent and are being accused. So Libya is the first state that wants to know the truth.

[Dirgham] Is that why—and perhaps because you believe that the U.S.-British response will not be positive—you transferred Libyan money and assets from the European states to Gulf states?

[Al-Bishari] I did not know that we have transferred money from the United States to Gulf states.

[Dirgham] This has been reported, and the given was to act quickly lest the state concerned confiscate or freeze Libyan money and assets.

[Al-Bishari] I did heard about it from the media, but I have no precise knowledge about the matter.

[Dirgham] Do you deny the report, now that you do know about it?

[Al-Bishari] Every state is entitled to take whatever precautions it deems suitable to defend its interests.

[Dirgham] What did Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, with whom you met, say about Libya's crisis with the United States? What was his advice, and what did you request from him?

[Al-Bishari] I requested nothing specific. We discussed what is happening at the (Islamic) conference within the framework of consultations because relations between Libya and Saudi Arabia are cordial. And there is a very special relationship between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution in Libya.

[Dirgham] One of the issues you are broaching here is your attempt to obtain the conference's support in the face of what you regard as U.S. threats against Libya. Have you secured this support?

[Al-Bishari] There is a statement by the Arab League which clearly reflects solidarity.

[Dirgham] Do you mean that the Arab states have pledged solidarity with Libya if it suffers a military strike or economic sanctions?

[Al-Bishari] The text of the resolution is clear. It rejects any economic or political pressures on Libya.

[Dirgham] Does Libya have Arab pledges to take certain measures if Libya suffers economic measures or a military strike?

[Al-Bishari] We have not requested that and have not reached that point, but I would like to indicate an important point, namely that Libya is an important Arab state in the heart of the Arab homeland. If it suffers a military attack, it will "confuse" the entire Arab region. In other words, the Arab peoples will not accept a strike against an innocent people. So it could affect many of the plans and programs currently being prepared for the

region. This is because it is unreasonable for the major states to try to find a lasting and just solution to the issue of one Arab (Palestinian) people and to slaughter another Arab people.

[Dirgham] Egypt is trying to play a role in this matter, through mediation, by calming the situation or by conveying the messages between Libya and the Western quarters concerned. What is Egypt's advice to you at this critical stage?

[Al-Bishari] We have regular meetings with our brothers in Egypt. We recently visited Alexandria, where we met with President Husni Mubarak, whose advice is to adhere to the values and principles of international legitimacy—to which we already adhere—and to safeguard the requirements of these principles, namely to find peaceful solutions to all problems.

[Dirgham] Has Egypt advised you to hand over the defendants?

[Al-Bishari] No, not at all. We have not heard that from our Egyptian brothers, who know international law well and have an old judiciary and human rights organization, which say that a state's citizens cannot be handed over to another state without an agreement between them on the exchange of criminals.

[Dirgham] A newspaper published in Senegal has said that the two defendants were arrested here some time ago on charges of possessing explosives and then released after six months in prison.

[Al-Bishari] I have not read that report, and I do not believe it is true.

[Dirgham] There is a new international orientation that several Arab states have joined, whereas Libya is still isolated, at least according to the general view. Why? What will you do to break that isolation and join the rest of the world, which has changed radically in the past three years?

[Al-Bishari] I do not believe that Libya is isolated. This is propaganda spread by the Western media.

Organizations Defend Libyan Stance on Lockerbie

Egyptian Consultative Council Statement

LD1112120791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (JANA)—The Egyptian Consultative Council [Majles al-Shura] has affirmed that the taking of any military measures or the imposition of economic sanctions against a state lies at the heart of the jurisdiction of international and regional organizations, and consequently the rules of international law require that the whole issue be presented before the concerned UN bodies, a special international arbitration body, or the International Court of Justice.

This came in the statement of the Arab Affairs Committee in the Egyptian Consultative Council regarding the U.S. and British threats against the Great Jamahiriyah. The Consultative Council explained that resorting to international arbitration or to the International Court of Justice in any case requires the agreement of the conflicting parties, and that the Great Jamahiriyah has expressed its readiness for this and has also called for presenting the case before a neutral international investigation body. The Consultative Council also expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by Egypt and President Husni Mubarak to stop the complications of this case, in affirmation of Egypt's pan-Arab role.

Arab Culture Council on 'Provocations'

LD1212005891 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Rabat, Al Kanoun 11 [Dec], Jamahiriyah News Agency—The Arab National Culture Council drew the attention to the dimensions of the U.S.-British threats and provocations to the Arab Libyan people and the danger they represent for the Arab nation and the whole world.

In a statement issued in Rabat in confirms that the new international order should not be the order of the powerful or the multifaceted legitimacy [as received] and double standards.

The council called on all Arab (?intelligence) to be committed to what is demanded by national duty. It also urged on the world public opinion to stop the campaign directed against Great Jamahiriya which had repeatedly confirmed its abidance by the international laws and conventions and its rejection for all forms of terrorism.

Sudan

Juba Residents Protest Shelling, Demand Peace

EA1212062891 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] The masses of Juba town staged a popular procession this morning in which all the official and popular sectors participated. The procession carried placards which urgently demanded peace. The slogans also condemned the barbaric acts being carried out by the rebel movement, namely the shelling of civilian targets, the killing of women, old people, and children, and the driving away of them from their homes, in addition to conscripting children to fight in the rebel movement.

The tumultuous procession called on the international community to try the rebel, John Garang, for the crimes he has perpetrated against children. It also appealed to the international community to contribute towards rescuing detained children in Garang's camps.

The procession, which was headed by various governors, was addressed by Equatoria Governor Major General Saturnino Harikha.

'Emergency' Relief Plan Formulated

EA1212063091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Dec (SUNA)—An emergency plan to extend relief to the people affected by the recent random shelling of the rebellion movement on Juba town has been formulated. The plan was drawn [up] at a meeting Wednesday chaired by RCC [Revolution Command Council] member Brig Dominic Kassiano and attended by representatives of health and social welfare ministries, commission for relief and rehabilitation as well as the wali [governor] of Equatoria State, Maj-Gen Saturnino Harikha.

The meeting tackled the impact of the recent random shelling of Juba town by the rebellion movement which gained the lives of 70 civilians and injured 138 more.

Brig Kassiano described the shelling as "an inhuman act that targeted the innocent civilians and led to the death of innocent people."

Meanwhile, Equatoria State wali has noted that Equatoria citizens have strongly denounced Juba shelling in the recent peace procession staged in the town and expressed support to the government's peace endeavours.

The RCC member called on the various states of the country and charity organisations to contribute to the provision of the urgent needs of the affected people in Juba, which, he said, included medicines and tents. Kassiano further urged doctors to volunteer to serve in the town.

Tunisia

Source Denies Part of Algerian Territory Occupied

NC1112115291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tunis, 11 Dec (MENA)—In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, a high-level Tunisian source has denied that Tunisia occupied part of Algerian territory, as claimed by former Algerian President Ahmed Ben-Bella in a speech at a public rally in Batna. The speech was carried by the Algerian press agency.

The source added: Tunisia, which is eager to maintain and strengthen relations of fraternity and neighborliness with sisterly Algeria and with all the region's countries, wants to provide momentum to the Arab Maghreb Union. We have never harbored any expansionist ambitions.

The source concluded by expressing concern about these allegations, saying that they may serve some transient election purposes but will not in any way serve the two countries' march on the road to unity, to which the peoples of our greater Maghreb and the younger generations aspire.

In an election rally the day before yesterday, Ben-Bella said that Tunis had occupied 25 square km of Algerian territory.

Bahrain

Iran Air Resumes Flights to Manama 10 Dec

JN1112195091 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Manama, Dec 11 (GNA)—The Bahraini minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, met this morning with the deputy managing director of Iran Air, Mr Ahmed Akbar San'i, now visiting Bahrain to mark the resumption of the Iranian airline's service to Bahrain. The first flight took off from Shiraz to Bahrain yesterday.

Mr. al-Shirawi welcomed the resumption of Iran Air's flights to Bahrain, citing the importance of cooperation between the Iranian carrier and the Bahrain Civil Aviation Directorate and Gulf Air as well as the resumption of air links between the two countries on a solid base.

The meeting discussed the possibility of increasing air flights between Bahrain and Iran to serve passengers as well as the commercial and economic sectors, al-Shirawi added.

Kuwait

UN Asked To 'Compel' Iraq To Return Detainees

LD1112115191 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] United Nations, 11 Dec (KUNA)—Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent representative at the United Nations, has asked the UN Security Council to take whatever action is necessary to compel the Iraqi regime to return Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees held by it, and to immediately remove five police stations the latter has established on Kuwaiti land.

This came at a meeting that Abu al-Hasan held last night with Yuliy Vorontsov, the president of the Security Council, during which they discussed the continuation of [words indistinct] Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees and others is regarded as a gross violation of the cease-fire agreement of the war for the liberation of Kuwait. Abu-al-Hasan said that the president of the Security Council showed understanding for the Kuwaiti demands, and promised to discuss the situation with the other members of the Council so as to take the appropriate measures. [passage omitted]

Amir Returns From ICO Summit in Dakar

NC1112220991 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] His highness the amir of Kuwait and his accompanying delegation returned, with God's care, to the homeland at 1845 today from Dakar, where he chaired the Kuwaiti delegation to the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] sixth summit. [passage omitted]

Oman

Cabinet Reshuffled; New Ministers Appointed

JN1012160691 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Within the framework of preparing the state's administrative apparatus, so as to shoulder the responsibilities of the next stage of national work, and on the basis of the requisites of the public interest, His Majesty Sultan Qabus, God protect him, has issued a number of royal decrees. These decrees dictate a number of changes to the government's composition and the state's administrative apparatus. The changes are as follows:

Royal Decree 106/91 on introducing a change in the government's composition. Here is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Royal Decree 106/91 on introducing a change in the government's composition. We, Sultan of Oman Qabus Bin-Sa'id, after reviewing Royal Decree 26/75 regarding the issuance of the law on the government's administrative apparatus and its amendments, and on the basis of the public interest, have decided the following:

Article 1: Humud Bin-'Abdallah al-Harithi is appointed minister of justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs.

Article 2: Yahya Bin-Mahfuz al-Mundhiri is appointed minister of education.

Article 3: Salim Bin-'Abdallah al-Ghazali is appointed minister of communications.

Article 4: Shaykh 'Amir Bin-Shuwayn al-Husni is appointed minister of provincial municipalities and environment.

Article 5: Hamid Bin-Sa'id Bin-Muhammad al-'Awfi is appointed minister of water resources.

Article 6: Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan is appointed minister of trade and industry.

Article 7: Ahmad Bin-Muhammad Bin-Salim al-'Isa'i is appointed minister of social affairs and labor.

Article 8: This decree is to be published in the Official Gazette and will be effective as of 15 December 1991. [passage omitted]

His majesty, God protects him, also issued the following royal decrees:

Royal Decree 107/91 appointing Yahya Bin-Mahfuz al-Mundhiri, minister of education, as president of Sultan Qabus University.

Royal Decree 108/91 appointing al-Mu'tasim Bin-Humud al-Busa'idi as minister of state and governor of Muscat.

Royal Decree 109/91 appointing Shabib Bin-Taymur al-Sa'id as his majesty the sultan's adviser for environmental affairs. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Sa'ud al-Faysal Welcomes Azerbaijani ICO Membership

LD1012235991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2245 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Dakar, 10 Dec (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has pointed out that there was collective praise from the sixth Islamic summit conference for the initiative by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to hold the conference of Islamic minorities in holy Mecca.

This came in an interview with Saudi TV in which Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal spoke about the work of the sixth Islamic summit now being held in the Senegalese capital, Dakar. [passage omitted]

His royal highness said "in this context, agreement was reached on several resolutions, some pertaining to the Middle East and reiterating the Islamic states' commitment to the Islamic issues on the agenda, foremost that of Jerusalem, supporting the Palestinian people to enable them to achieve their objectives, and concentrating on international legitimacy, especially in supporting the trend toward peace, and supporting the Arab stand in favor of peace, in order to settle this problem, whether from the aspect of the Israeli-Arab conflict or the Palestinian aspect in accordance with the legitimate rights."

His royal highness described the resolutions adopted on these matters as extremely important. He said that the conference dealt in a basic and detailed way with the results of the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and its occupation, and made clear that the conference expressed its indignation at the Iraqi regime's sustained refusal to implement UN Security Council resolutions, and called for their implementation, especially the resolutions passed by the UN Security Council to assist the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

His royal highness considered the admission of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a member of the Islamic Conference Organization and the admission of Albania as an observer as a positive matter. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Soviet Military Delegation Arrives in Sanaa 11 Dec

Smirnov Notes 'Strong' Relations

JN1112131691 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] A Soviet military delegation led by General Smirnov, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, arrived in Sanaa this morning on a visit of several days to our country. During the visit, the Soviet delegation will hold talks with Defense Ministry officials.

In a statement to SABA', the Soviet official said that the visit falls within the framework of strong relations between the countries to reinforce cooperation between the two friendly armies.

The Soviet delegation was received by brothers Colonel Yahya [last name indistinct], deputy chief of staff; 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Bujayri, our country's ambassador in Moscow; and the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

'Exchange of Expertise' Discussed

JN1112202591 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] At the Defense Ministry today at noon, Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir and the chief of staff, Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, received a Soviet military delegation, currently visiting our country under General Smirnov, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with friendly bilateral relations and means of promoting them on the basis of joint cooperation in the service of common interests. Talks also dealt with the exchange of expertise in the field of military construction.

AL-QADISIYAH Editor Executed 'Recently'

LD1212110591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tens of senior Iraqi Army officers were executed over the past few days on charges of complicity in a plot against Saddam. The Central News Unit reports that the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, announcing the above piece of news, said that Brigadier General Mash'an Faysal and Brig. Gen. [Mundhir] 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim, editor of AL-QADISIYAH, are among those executed recently in Iraq. The name of editor [Mundhir] 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim was removed from the said paper several days ago. AL-QADISIYAH is the official publication of the Iraqi Army.

Ousted National Assembly Members Named

JN1112150891 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] Baghdad—The National Assembly has revoked the membership of a number of its members because their involvement in the chapter of treason and treachery has been confirmed.

The decision included the following members: Husayn al-Sha'lan, 'Abd-al-'Al Shulaybah, 'Umar Kukha Qadir, Sami Raji al-Haymas, and Kamil Hannun Abu-al-Hayl. The Assembly also accepted the resignation of Hatim 'Abd-al-Rashid.

Saddam Said Bribing Citizens, Forces

NC1212050391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Stupid Saddam is using financial incentives to win over the inhabitants of the governorate in an attempt to contain the mounting popular anger against his criminal regime in the Ninawa Governorate. Saddam recently ordered some of his henchmen to invite volunteers to enroll in certain mercenary formations called the 'Aflaqi Knights [fursan al-'afaliqah]. Every man who joins that mercenary service is promised a monthly salary of 500 dinars. It is worth mentioning that many of those who served in these mercenary formations have already defected to the ranks of the popular Kurdish opposition.

Statutes of Secret Saddam Organization Detailed

PM1112122091 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Dec 91 pp 28-29

[Hasan al-'Alawi article: "Is 'Saddam's Sword' a Revolutionary Excess or Vestige of Maoism?"]

[Text] After the Iraqi experience, will the markets of the Arab masses receive a secret organization formed in Baghdad with the task of exporting the Iraqi model to other Arab states? How true does the organization's leader seem both to himself and to the new situation in the Arab world when he plans to organize "Saddam's Sword" ["Sayf Saddam"], the Arabic name for the secret organization in Iraq, and deliberately leaks copies—one of which is in our possession—of the regulations of that old-new organization?

Although my obtaining a copy of the constitution of the "Saddam's Sword" organization seems like a sensational press item and a discovery of something unknown, I believe that those in charge of that organization have facilitated the leakage of secret information about it through their complex methods.

Because AL-MAJALLAH was the first publication to reveal the nature of the third-level system [nizam al-raff al-thalith]—that is, the status of a secret organization—AL-MAJALLAH's scoop this week will seem consistent with earlier findings.

The constitution of the "Saddam's Sword" organization comprises 17 articles, reflecting the date of the Iraqi Ba'th Party's assumption of power on 17 July 1968. Article 2 states: "...Saddam's Sword is a pan-Arab, partisan, political, military organization launched by President Saddam Husayn. It has been entrusted with ironing out the difficulties of an Arab merger. The organization's emblem is a hand holding a sword whose blade extends over the Arab world map right to the Atlantic. Article 4 specifies the identity (Iraqi in leadership, Arab in unity, and Ba'thist in loyalty). The organization's cadres comprise Arab volunteers of both sexes and elements from Palestinian, Arab, and world organizations. The organization's headquarters is to be in Baghdad and the organization is to open branches (secret, of course) in all the Arab states under special commercial names.

The aim of the regulations or the organization's constitution is try to revive the old terminology with regard to the names of the Arab regimes and international powers. And to make toppling the Arab regime an imperative necessity, as stated in Clause C of Article 2. Clause D stipulates the organization's right to assassinate whoever obstructs its course and activities.

The organization's constitution promises Arab citizens a redistribution of wealth so as to achieve an economic system that establishes social justice. In this regard the organization's constitution announces its adherence to the planned economy system and reaffirms the idea of distributing land after its confiscation.

Clause B of Article 12 calls for a revival of the role of thinkers and writers in developing the revolutionary spirit and their full support in organizing revolutionary cells. According to Clause D of the same article, the organization seeks to control the media in the Arab states by recruiting the personnel working for them. In this regard it has the power to hold meetings, seminars, and anything likely to win over these personnel to serve the organization's principles.

Clause F of the same article stipulates the allocation of a special budget for establishing centers for analyzing information in all the Arab states under special commercial names, providing them with the necessary capabilities to examine, study, and analyze the decisions, regulations, and legislations in force.

Clause G of the same article specifies the destruction of bodies or individuals who represent a threat to it or obstruct the attainment of its aims.

Clause E of Article 12 stipulates the organization's aim to infiltrate security organs in the Arab countries, to recruit whoever it can from their staff, to infiltrate the Arab states' armed forces, and to confuse civilian and military institutions in one way or another.

The organization also seeks to hold popular, unionist, and student conferences and to mobilize specialized revolutionary cadres in the Arab states and to arm them in order to use them at the right time. In another context the organization seeks to encourage the process of merger among all revolutionary organizations and movements, and to work to contain Islamic organizations and movements in the Arab states.

The organization believes that it has the legitimate right to use whatever means of deterrence it deems suitable in international circles.

In view of the importance of Article 16, we publish its full text:

"Because of the seriousness of the responsibilities shouldered by this organization, the seriousness of its role, and its confrontation of whatever obstacles may obstruct this course; and in accordance with the directives of the victorious President Saddam Husayn and his full support for this organization; it has been decided to grant the organization the following privileges:

A—The leadership of this organization is to be linked directly to the president of the republic.

B—The president of the republic alone may appoint, and accept the resignation of, the organization's leader.

C—Members of the organization's leadership are to be appointed by the president of the republic in accordance with the guidance of the organization's leader and in coordination with the security organs concerned.

D—The organization's leadership will appoint members of the organization's subcommittees after coordinating with the competent security organs and examining the background, records, and affiliations of members of these committees.

E—An advisory council will be formed, its members to be chosen from among all the organization's subcommittees, to study and assess draft resolutions concerning the organization's activities and to issue an opinion on them, each according to his own area of specialization.

F—The allocation of a founding budget totalling $1 billion to the organization, to be increased on orders from President Saddam, to enable the organization to carry out the tasks for which it was established.

G—The organization's leadership will instruct the financial committee, in coordination with the other committees, to prepare an estimated budget for the next two fiscal years and to submit it to the president of the republic for approval.

H—A special independent court will be formed, its members are to be chosen by the president of the republic, to examine all violations and crimes committed by the organization's members and elements, and to issue the appropriate rulings against them. Its head will be directly linked to the president of the republic.

I—All establishments and official departments will cooperate fully with the organization's leadership.

J—It is totally forbidden to distribute any copies of these regulations or even to allow any individual from outside the organization's membership to read it.

Caution must be observed, because the disclosure of the organization by the press could serve some of the aims of those in charge of the organization. What we regard as public exposure of the regime, when we reveal its hidden defects, could be regarded as a promotion of the other side's wish to tell its opponents that it still brandishes its sword and still pursues those who have been easy targets for silenced guns, toxic thallium, and acid baths, and to intimidate the international community in an overt blackmail attempt to prove the ability of those who are isolated both at the international level and the Arab level to revive old revolutionary traditions.

At any rate, Saddam's Sword is a vestige of Maoism which, if seen by Mao Zedong himself, would not alter his beliefs at all, since these are not revolutionaries; they are revolutionaries in decay.

The organization's disclosure ultimately reveals defeated and suppressed dreams and wishes that are trying to come out into the open. We can now sense Saddam's secrets, which the Iraqis have suffered since 17 July 1986 in 17 articles drawn up by Saddam Husayn in a written constitution to organize his broken sword.

And Saddam's Sword is certainly a revolutionary excess of accumulations which we do not believe will find a road to travel or a place to park.

Saddam Husayn Urges Germans To End Hunger Strike

JN1112193091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1803 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that the outstanding sacrifice Mrs. Silka Hottman is making for Iraq's people and children is a great sacrifice for the sake of humanity, which is

tortured by Satan whenever it is uncertain about the right path leading to the shores of safety. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the message from President Saddam Husayn:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

And He made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other. Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you. [Koranic verse]

Mrs. Silka Hottman: Peace be upon you. I read your letter dated 11 December 1991 at exactly 1340 today, and I was very pleased and I greatly appreciated the meaning and words of your letter. Before this, all the comrades in the leadership, Iraq's people, and certainly all the sons of our entire nation have all been very delighted and also proud of your noble, humanitarian, glorious, and impressive position, because those who are still doubtful have become certain that humanity will remain in good condition as long as people know facts about people as they are, and not as the forgers portray them.

While we deeply appreciate this great humanitarian position you are taking today to demonstrate a high sense of responsibility toward higher values, without which humanity will not be able to preserve its characteristics on earth, we feel deep pain, and many Iraqi women and men shed tears when they hear news of your condition and the deterioration of your health, which became dear to the people after they became aware of your noble position.

Only God can evaluate the degree of good positions, because God alone completely knows the invisible. However, faithful people can reach conclusions in light of Almighty God's orders, and can say that sacrifice for the sake of others on the basis of human values, which the God of heaven and earth created, is the greatest kind of sacrifice in the eyes of Almighty God, and they indicate the meaning Almighty God wanted to show when He said: Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you. [Koranic verse]

Rallying to the values that the Creator wants and orders us to follow is a form of piety that stems from a deep faith in these values. A level of sacrifice, such as you are demonstrating today for the people of Iraq and for the children of Iraq, is a sacrifice and a great gesture toward the human race, that is being tormented by Satan whenever this human race finds itself facing a dilemma concerning the search for the right course toward safe shores, security, and a dignified life.

May God bless you, and on behalf of the Iraqi people we express our appreciation for this noble stand, which has made all the faithful people feel in the most resounding manner that the sacrifices of the Iraqi people have sprouted good plants in the interest of all mankind.

These sacrifices have not gone to waste. They will blossom and bear fruit in the future. The swindlers, the enemies of mankind who committed armed aggression against the people of Iraq and who are responsible for the perpetuation of the unjust blockade on Iraq, will day after day find that they are experiencing part of the torture that has been allotted to them in the hereafter, as a result of the hammering on their heads by the free people of this world, led by Silka Hottman, which make them hear the voice of justice on the largest scale possible. Now that they have started to hear this voice of justice, the great Iraqi people—with their tortured children and old people who are being killed by hunger and diseases, and who are struggling for the sake of God and mankind—have started to forge their way to where there is the justice, the fairness, and equality that God has wished for all mankind.

O noble lady: The Almighty God does not urge man to bring ruin upon himself. As a matter of fact, he forbids such a thing.

After you have walked this honorable path, taken this noble stand toward Iraq, and manifested it clearly before the UN offices, many other people have chosen to walk in your footsteps, as you have set for them an example to be emulated through this noble position of yours. This is meant to make unsympathetic persons, or those who have been in the dark regarding the injustice done to the Iraqi people and children as well as the sufferings of the patient Iraqi people caused by this unfair blockade, harbor the proper humanitarian sentiments.

I am saying that after you have conveyed your message, as well as the message of humanity on the largest scale possible, and after you have charted the course with what you have done in Baghdad, many people have chosen to emulate you and to continue, in the same manner, the sit-in you began.

Consequently, I appeal to you, on behalf of the Iraqi people, to end your hunger strike so that humanity will keep you and this huge humanitarian asset for the longest possible time, God willing, and so that we can spare ourselves doing what would bring dissatisfaction to the Almighty God.

My best regards to you.

Peace be upon you, and God is great.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, 11 December 1991

German Woman Ends Hunger Strike

JN1112204991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—German national Mrs. Silka Hottman announced an end to her hunger strike at 1935 today, in response to a call from President Saddam Husayn.

No one, who loves freedom, right, and good, will turn down a request from leader Saddam Husayn, she said. She then ate some Iraqi dates and drank a cup of milk. Mrs. Silka had sent the following message to President Saddam Husayn:

Your Excellency Esteemed President Saddam Husayn: I cannot express with words my deep respect for the role you are playing in leading the Arabs and fighting Zionism.

For me, I believe that the future of Iraq's children will be guaranteed as long as you remain leader of Iraq.

[Signed] Sincerely yours, Silka Hottman, 10 December 1991

The message was delivered to President Saddam Husayn by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Najm, deputy head of the president's office, in the presence of Presidential Press Secretary 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin and a large number of correspondents from international newspapers, news agencies, and radio stations, as well as correspondents from Iraqi television and radio networks, INA, and local newspapers. A large number of people also attended the ceremony.

German national Silka Hottman expressed her deep pleasure at leader President Saddam Husayn's reply to her message. The German national, who began a hunger strike on 29 November, told an INA correspondent: I cannot find words with which to express this great honor I had from leader President Saddam Husayn.

She added: I had planned to continue the hunger strike until the United Nations respond to the Iraqi people's will and ended the unjust economic blockade against its women, children, and elderly.

She explained: As leader President Saddam Husayn has asked me to stop the hunger strike, I have to respond to his excellency's request without hesitation. She stressed that ending the hunger strike will not prevent her from pursuing the path she had chosen in supporting free people and their rights.

Reform Movement Urges Unity Among Opposition

NC1012173991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] The National Reform Movement in Iraq [harakat al-islah al-watani fi al-'iraq] has called on all opposition forces to unite and reorganize their ranks to save our people from the suffering caused by the existence of dictator Saddam Husayn and his corrupt regime. The movement said that the suffering of our people imposes heavy responsibilities on the leaders and movements of Iraqi opposition, for the latter must take action to end this suffering. The movement said that the opposition forces should live up to their historic responsibilities.

The movement said that the homeland calls on us to unite, reorganize our ranks, and direct all efforts to serve the interests of the people and the homeland and to take practical measures to save our people from the combined ordeals of terror, intimidation, disease, epidemics, and famine.

The movement said that it is crucial that the political decisionmaking of the Iraqi opposition should remain independent. The opposition forces must not compromise on matters involving Iraq's basic interests and or affecting the unity of the Iraqi opposition. The movement said that the opposition decisions should not be influenced by any external party and should take into account the fact that the Iraqi people are impatiently waiting for the unified opposition to bring down the dictatorial regime, to honor the principles of freedom, democracy, human rights, and sovereignty of the law in Iraq, and to rebuild that country.

The movement called on all neighboring Arab and Islamic countries and friendly countries to assist the Iraqi patriotic forces and encourage the unification of these forces because such unity is crucial not only for the Iraqi people but also for the sake of establishing stability in the region.

'Nationalists' Abroad Issue 'Appeal' for Unity

JN1112111991 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Dec 91 p 3

["Free Opinions" column by Dr. Majid 'Abd-al-Rida: "The Voice of the Homeland Is Raised Abroad"]

[Text] Imperialist and Zionist media, and their Arab followers, are taking pains to distort the position of Iraqis who work or study abroad, by saying that they oppose Iraq's national policy against imperialist-U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist schemes in the Gulf war.

To be objective, we frankly say, yes, there are many Iraqis abroad who are against this policy. But honesty and truth also require us to say that the Iraqis abroad have another voice—a strong, daring nationalist voice that establishes close links with the voice of their proud people who are struggling against aggression and the sinful blockade. This voice declares that there is no room for hesitancy or choosing between the interests of the homeland and the nation and the aggressive schemes of U.S.-Zionist aggression.

The statement we publish below is a clear example that the voice of our people and homeland extends abroad—the voice that rises and roars despite all the clamor of hostile media, part of which is, regrettably, Arab.

Appeal:

We, the undersigned, Iraqi nationalists who belong to different political and social currents, including democrats, leftists, and communists, and who express the aspirations and will of many broad quarters of Iraqis, have agreed to issue the following statement:

The aggressive war on our homeland, Iraq, has created totally new situations in the national, Arab, and international arenas. All these require analysis and appropriate conclusions by the factions and strugglers of the Iraqi nationalist movement and all Arab liberation factions through broad democratic dialogue. This is a task for everybody.

We think it is now necessary to concentrate on urgent matters. For the aggressive war against Iraq has jeopardized Iraq's independence and threatened its unity so as to interfere in its domestic affairs and make it subject to miserable subservience.

Under the circumstances of the imperialist aggression, the blockade, starving the people, and the continued aggression against it, any coordination or cooperation with the enemy, under whatever pretext, is a dangerous act that is condemned.

National unity requires us, and everybody else, to:

—Struggle to safeguard Iraq's unity—the land and people—and work to strengthen its domestic front with closed ranks before enemies.
—Struggle to lift the economic blockade on Iraq.
—Nationalists and the sons of the homeland should cooperate to reconstruct the destroyed homeland.

These missions cannot take their full dimensions unless they are coupled with struggle for the central cause in our Arab East and the Arab homeland; namely, the Palestinian cause. We are struggling, and we call on all nationalists to struggle for clear recognition of the Palestinian people's right to their land and self-determination on this land, and for a complete commitment to international legitimacy, without any bargaining over it, particularly on the basis of implementing a single criterion.

Struggling for these urgent national and Arab missions cannot contradict the struggle for democracy in Iraq. In fact, it will facilitate nationalists efforts at achieving popular support for the struggle for democracy, respect for human rights, and other missions that relate to this objective.

We are constant strugglers for the freedom and integrity of our homeland. We are also constant strugglers for justice and peace in the region and for human rights.

It is obvious that the anti-Iraq alliance forces have started to address Iraqi nationalist forces, especially those operating abroad. In reply to this hypocritical address, we tell them that we are constant strugglers for democracy and human rights.

The simplest of our duties is to expose and reject the way these hostile alliance forces play on these objectives. For, struggle to achieve these objectives—since they are just and legitimate—cannot be in any way linked or associated with the enemies of our Iraqi people and the Arab people and the enemies of peace and democracy.

Let the hearts, minds, and hands of all Iraqis cooperate, regardless of their positions and political trends, to defend and safeguard the homeland and defend the noble cause of peace.

The support of our brothers the sons of the Arab nation and the free peoples of the world is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the signatories:

Baqir Ibrahim
Dr. Amal Ma'ruf
Dr. Qusayy Tabarah
Dr. Sahib al-Utruqji
Dr. Majid 'Abd-al-Rida
Dr. Shawan Ahmad Zaynal
Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Kazim
Dr. Khalil al-Jaza'iri
Sa'd Jihad/artist
'Adnan 'Abbas
Lawyer Salim al-Mandalawi
Dr. Jalal al-Zubaydi
Falah Hasan/architect
Ahmad Karim
Dr. Khalid al-Salam
Dr. Ghazi al-Shammari
Dr. Kazim al-'Abbudi

Before issuing this statement, when the elements and forces of aggression were building up in the gulf region, the nationalist voice of our sons abroad had been raised. The long distances did not prevent them from coalescing with the masses of our people. Therefore, they appealed to the forces that oppose aggression and war and are enthusiastic about human rights and just peace, to adopt an urgent and principled stance on the grave dangers surrounding our Iraqi homeland and all Arab countries as a result of the U.S.-Western military buildup that is armed with the most lethal weapons. They also called for the evacuation of U.S. and foreign armies and fleets from the territory of Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Gulf waters, and stopping all military activities in the region. In their appeal, they also condemned all resolutions that provided a legitimate cover to bring in these armies and fleets to publicly launch an all-out war against Iraq that could claim the lives of millions of the sons of our people and the people of the region...and asserted that we stand firmly and strongly with our homeland and great Iraqi people in the face of Arab reactionary regimes, Israeli threats, and the U.S.-Western heavy military buildup, and support Iraq's attempt to draw attention to the Middle East crisis and its central cause, the Palestine question. We assert that fighting a battle as complex and broad as this one requires dependence on the masses of the people and their progressive and nationalist forces.

Finally, we appeal to freemen everywhere: Let us unify our ranks and raise our voice high: Imperialist Americans, take your hands off Arab countries.

Dr. Khalid al-Salam. Dr. Majid 'Abd-al-Rida.
Ahmad Karim. Dr. Khalil al-Jaza'iri.
Fadil al-Rubay'i. Dr. Muhammad Ma'arij.

Dr. Faysal 'Abd-al-Raziq.

Attacks on Saddam's 'Dens' in Karbala' Reported

NC1212050991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Asserting their strength and steadfastness and expressing their total rejection of the Saddamist terror, our revolutionaries in the central governorates have shown solidarity with their brothers in the north and south of the country in the fight to defend the sacred sites and inviolable rights of our people, which the criminal 'Aflaqis have been desecrating. Relying on Almighty God, a group of our revolutionaries carried out two successful attacks against the dens of Saddam's henchmen [word indistinct] the holy towns recently.

The first attack targeted two dens of the 'Aflaqis, a police center and a security station, in the town of Tuwayr near the holy city of Karbala'. The second attack targeted the 'Aflaqi headquarters in the same town. Just punishment was meted out to several of the hideous 'Aflaqis. The town remained in the hands of our revolutionaries throughout the night of the attacks. May God bless the revolutionary heroes and assist them in their revenge of Islam's enemy Saddam and his despicable henchmen.

Kurdish Leader Visits Fasting Workers in Irbil

NC1112125391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1701 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Dr. Mahmud 'Uthman, a member of the Political Command of the Kurdistan Front and of the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Socialist Party of Iraq, visited striking workers in Irbil today. Outside the UN Headquarters, brother 'Uthman delivered a speech on behalf of the Kurdistan Front, saying:

On behalf of the Kurdistan Front, I congratulate you on this new form of struggle. O strugglers and peshmerga: It is a source of pride to adopt a new method of struggle to challenge the regime and the economic siege it has imposed on our people. This regime has committed many crimes against our people. It is the one which left no trace of the Barzanis [akhfa al-barzaniyun] and removed the traces of 182,000 people in the al-Anfal operation.

He continued: Your hunger strike and your insistence on going on with this strike until your demands are met is a source of great pride. We and the Kurdistan Front will be with you in the trench of honor and struggle. We promise to be with you. The news of your strike has been reverberating over radios and news agencies worldwide for the past two days, and it will reverberate even more in the coming days.

It should be noted that brother Dr. Mahmud 'Uthman spoke to UN employees in Irbil in English.

Oil Minister Returns, Comments on OAPEC Meeting

JN1012164591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti returned home last night after attending the 47th ministerial conference of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC], which was held in Cairo on 7 December.

In a statement to INA, the minister said delegates at the conference discussed a number of topics related to cooperation and coordination among the Arab member states; the activity and accomplishments of joint Arab ventures, the Arab Oil Academy, and the OAPEC General Secretariat; and the organization's budget for 1991-1992.

He added that the conference agreed to keep OAPEC headquarters in Cairo for another year, and to discuss the venue for its permanent headquarters in a meeting scheduled for December 1992.

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti confirmed that OAPEC's 47th ministerial conference rejected two proposals made by the delegation representing the regime imposed on Kuwait to move the Arab Oil Academy for Training headquarters from Baghdad and to set up a temporary headquarters somewhere else.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab Oil Academy for Training, to which Iraq makes a significant contribution, has played a major role in training Arab staff in various oil industries.

Ahmad Husayn Returns From Maghreb Tour 10 Dec

JN1112114391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy, returned to Baghdad last night after a visit to Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania. In a statement to INA, the president's envoy said he conveyed verbal messages from his excellency to his brothers President Zine El Abidine Ben 'Ali, President Chadli Benjedid, King Hassan II, and President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on bilateral relations. He added that he also conveyed his excellency's greetings and wishes of good health to his brothers, wishing the Arab people in the sisterly countries continuous progress and prosperity.

The president's envoy said that he explained to the leaders of the four Arab countries the circumstances of the unjust economic blockade imposed on our country by the United States and its allies as well as the suffering of the Iraqi people due to this blockade.

The foreign minister said that he also explained to the Arab brothers the Iraqis' steadfastness and their rally

around President Saddam Husayn's leadership as well as their determination to confront and foil the schemes of the enemies.

Ahmad Husayn said that the leaders of the sisterly countries asked him to convey their greetings and wishes of good health to President Saddam Husayn, wishing the Iraqi people progress under his leadership. They all expressed their solidarity with the people of Iraq to overcome the circumstances of the blockade, rebuild the country, and continue development.

National Assembly Group Returns From Maghreb Tour

JN1012220991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi National Assembly delegation has returned to Baghdad following a visit to the Arab Maghreb states—Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco—which lasted several days.

Fa'iq Makki Ahmad, chairman of the Assembly's Financial Affairs and Planning Committee and head of the delegation, told INA that the delegation held talks with parliamentarians in the four Arab countries, during which the delegation reviewed the dimensions of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq and the destruction it brought to Iraq's cultural renaissance, as well as the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the unfair economic blockade imposed on them by the aggression states.

He added that parliament speakers and members in the Arab Maghreb states voiced their great denunciation and condemnation of the continued blockade imposed on Iraq and the attempts to bring it to its knees. They also stressed the backing and support of the Arab people in the Arab Maghreb states for the Iraqi people and their wise leadership, he said.

The head of the National Assembly delegation stressed that the Iraqi delegation has asked the parliaments in the said countries to take serious and practical steps on the Arab and international, particularly European, levels to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq.

He pointed out that the delegation signed with the General People's Congress in Libya a joint statement which called for bolstering the ties of cooperation and solidarity between the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries, for serious and ceaseless efforts to expose the imperialist conspiracy against Iraq and Libya, and for action on the international arena to break the blockade imposed on Iraq.

Agriculture Union Signs Libyan Protocol

LD1112101191 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Al Kanoun [December] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A working programme for joint cooperation in the field of investments in the agricultural project was signed yesterday in Baghdad between the agricultural engineers unions in both great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Iraq. The programme included the establishment of joint agricultural projects and the exchange of expertese between the two unions. The signing of this programme comes within the framework of enhancing joint cooperation towards the vocational integration amongst the Arab countries to achieve the pan Arab unity.

Levi Warns Against Prematurely Abandoning Talks

TA1112201591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The peace negotiations are moving ahead as expected, and Israel has alternative ideas for any possible development. These remarks were made tonight by Foreign Minister David Levi in an interview with our correspondent. Minister Levi confirmed that his ministry has prepared detailed peace treaties with Arab countries participating in the debates, which have already been conveyed to the Washington teams.

In an interview with our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, the foreign minister warned his colleagues against abandoning the negotiations at the end of this week and against leveling accusations at the American mediators.

Referring to the Palestinian insistence on appearing in a separate delegation, the foreign minister said:

[Begin recording] [Levi] The Palestinian stand was predictable. One cannot say we did not expect it, although we did not accept it and are not accepting it now. In any event, it was to be expected. There is only one delegation, although the issues are divergent. The Americans also believe we are right to hold the position we do, but at the same time, the situation must not be dramatized beyond the argument and a situation in which we quit must not be allowed to arise. I am warning us on this point.

[Sukenik] Do you see a possibility of this happening at present?

[Levi] I hope no one is harboring such thoughts. We will hold the debates which we have waited for for such a long time. We have to demonstrate determination on the one hand and openness on the other, but we must also show we are self-confident.

[Sukenik] Your mentioning this possibility sounds like a warning or a hint in the wake of something you have heard.

[Levi] Each time difficulties arise, it seems that something unexpected befell us, and some people add even more fuel to that fire. Such an attitude can, God forbid, cause renewed despair among the Israeli public or in the political arena. This is unwarranted. A thing like that almost happened when we were on our way to Madrid: Some people poured more fuel on the fire by saying it would not be a tragedy if we did not go there and that it was vital for us to bolt the process at once. At that time, I pointed out that instead of feeling elation—despite the known and predictable difficulties—and instead of viewing the step we had initiated and which was scoring success, the nation was sunk in gloom. The leadership should beware of such situations.

[Sukenik] When will this round end? When will the delegations return to Israel?

[Levi] We must not watch the process with a stopwatch. I do not believe we should decide on the day of the delegation's return even before the talks are launched. And another thing: We are liable to be trapped by our own acts here. We were the last to come, and we should not be the first to leave. The second point is that we cannot assert to the entire world that.... [changes thought] The Syrians are intransigent because they appear to lack the necessary mandate to make progress before they consult their authorities. And what will we say? That this happens to be our own situation? The delegation must be allowed to fully exhaust the time and chances. If there is something crucial that requires urgent consultation, we will hold it here or anywhere as long as we make progress—that is, if our teams believe progress is feasible. [end recording]

Behind-the-Scenes Moves Reported

TA1112204791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] What is happening behind Israel's political scenes with regard to the Washington talks? It appears that in consultations between our delegation chiefs there, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office who is in charge of negotiations with the Syrians, was in favor of the Israeli delegation's returning home for consultations as soon as Friday, and he has apprised the prime minister of his view. The other delegation heads prefer to wait and see how the debates develop before deciding on returning home. Foreign Minister David Levi has learned all this and warned against a premature walkout.

The issue of talks termination will be decided in consultations by senior political echelons after tonight's or tomorrow's talks. The profound differences of opinion between the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office are again becoming evident. [Later in the newsreel, the announcer reports: "We have just received this report: The prime minister's bureau has advised us that full harmony prevails among the Israeli delegates to the Washington talks, and there are no disagreements with regard to the talks' termination date. The team heads, said the prime minister's bureau, work in full cooperation."]

Jerusalem is unanimous in the belief that despite the difficulties, the talks are developing as expected and that certain progress has been made.

Today Yitzhaq Shamir told the visiting president of Germany that the Lebanese have already been offered a discussion of the peace treaty drawn in 1983. As for the Syrians, he said that because of their extremism, we have no illusions about a speedy resolution. With regard to the Jordanians and Palestinians, Mr. Shamir today again instructed Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who is negotiating with them, that no concessions are to be made on the issue of their joint appearance to talks.

Beyond that, reports which reached the political echelons indicate that the Americans are still taking care not to interfere between the warring—or the talking—parties; also, that the Palestinian delegation members are quarrelling badly, with the main butt of disagreement being the spokesperson, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

Decision on Silwan Settlement Issue Released

Attorney General—Settlers Can Claim Homes

TA1112214891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2118 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Report by police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum]

[Excerpt] Tonight Attorney General Yosef Harish apprised the police commissioner of his legal opinion stating that the settlers of the EL'AD [Onward to the City of David] society have a right to take possession of the houses to which they claim title. The ruling involves six buildings in the village of Silwan.

In his letter to the police commissioner, Yosef Harish writes that the material he has received contains nothing conflicting with the validity of the lease or preventing EL'AD from taking possession of the buildings as a lessor and from using them in any way allowed by the lease terms.

Upon receipt of this letter, Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner instructed Jerusalem District Commander Hayim Albaldes to summon EL'AD representatives to a meeting tomorrow morning, in order to coordinate their entry into the houses they had rented. The commissioner decided that the police would make it possible for the tenants to enter in an orderly fashion, without unnecessary delays, and in personal safety. Police have been instructed to avert attacks on or harassment of the Jewish settlers tomorrow or thereafter. The police will act to enforce the law and preserve public order and security on the location, as it does in other Jerusalem areas. [passage omitted]

Settlers Occupy Homes; More Purchased

TA1212062891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Some 30 Jewish settlers took up residence early this morning in homes they bought in the Arab village of Silwan in East Jerusalem. The settlers were accompanied by a large police force. Attorney General Yosef Harish determined yesterday that settlers who bought homes in Silwan should be allowed to occupy their homes immediately. This report from Dani Gur-Arye:

[Gur-Arye] [passage omitted] Thirty Jewish men took up residence this morning in six homes in the village. The settlers say many more homes have been purchased in the village and will be occupied by settlers in the near future. The organization which purchases the homes on behalf of the settlers, EL'AD [Onward to the City of David], said it aims to create a string of Jewish neighborhoods from the Western Wall in the Old City to the City of David in Silwan. [passage omitted]

[An ITIM report on page A4 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 December notes that "in an affidavit submitted to the High Court of Justice yesterday, David Be'eri, chairman of the EL'AD building society, states that EL'AD has so far spent over 1.4 million shekels to purchase houses from Arabs in the City of David."]

Committee To Thwart Land Sales to Jews Proposed

Al-Husayni Outlines Goals

TA1112123291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 91 p A5

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] Faysal al-Husayni will work for the establishment of a PLO-sponsored body that will plan and focus activities against Israeli settlements in Silwan (in the Wadi al-Hilwah neighborhood) and in other parts of the territories. This body, al-Husayni said, will deal mainly with Palestinians who sell lands and houses to Jews, and publish their names after careful investigation.

Al-Husayni declared this at a rally yesterday at the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem. The gathering was organized by "the committee for the defense of land and property in Silwan," which is headed by 'Abd Abu-Dhiyab, the chairman of the East Jerusalem electricity company workers union.

Al-Husayni warned against the establishment of multiple such organizations in the territories. He said that would lead to the unfounded publication of names and to internecine disputes. He called on all opposition elements to cooperate on this matter, and he appealed to the Palestinian public in the territories to follow the orders and instructions issued by the Silwan defense committee and by other committees.

Al-Husayni proposed adopting additional means of struggle, besides strikes, to allow all the Palestinian public to participate in the struggle. For example, he proposed a contribution drive to thwart Israeli settlement activity in Wadi al-Hilwah by building and renovating houses. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni's declarations at the gathering reflect his recently declared intention to devote increased effort within the framework of the intifadah to thwarting Israeli settlement activity in Jerusalem and in the territories.

Al-Husayni, New Group Hold News Conference

TA1112132491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpts] The committee for the defense of the land and property of Silwan, which was recently established in the territories by Faysal al-Husayni, is taking positive action against the settlement in the City of David and other locations in the territories. The committee's members invited the consuls of European countries to their news conference in East Jerusalem this morning to express their strong protest over Israel's continued settlement activity and to demand that the European Community pressure Israel to stop what they termed Israel's constant encroaching on Palestinian lands. [passage omitted]

[Begin al-Husayni recording] And we are warning that if the Israelis continue to do this, to attack the Palestinian people, and to leave nothing for negotiations, then the negotiations will be in real danger. In the absence of negotiations, what is left for us? [end recording]

Al-Husayni stressed that the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations in Washington had already been instructed to discuss urgently Israel's attempt to create a contiguous Jewish presence in Jerusalem from the Jewish Quarter to the Talpiyot Mizrah neighborhood while trapping several thousand Palestinians in their midst. Al-Husayni told the consuls and correspondents that he would find it difficult to confine Palestinian action against the settlements only to nonviolent methods.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] The Palestinians want to defend their land, and they have the right to do so. However, if there is no recourse, I will be unable to prevent any Palestinian from doing all he can to defend his land. [end recording]

Faysal al-Husayni pointed out that so far the Palestinian leaders have only employed non-violent measures against the settlements.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 11 December carries a report including a recording in which al-Husayni says: "We believe that any negotiations must be built on a proper ground, which is prepared for such negotiations. And by going on with these settlements, it means that the Israelis are simply destroying the ground under our feet and forbidding us from going in such successful negotiations. They are making everything to come with an unsuccessful negotiations, and we will not allow ourselves to play such a game."]

Settlers Document Outlines 'Dangers of Autonomy'

TA1212121091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 91 pp A1, A7

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has decided to launch an intensive information campaign among settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in a bid to make them aware of what it terms "the dangers of autonomy."

To this end, the council has drafted a document which will soon be distributed to Jewish settlers in the territories. The document paints a bleak picture of what will lie in store for them if autonomy is implemented and a vast array of powers is transferred to the Palestinian self-administration. The decision on the information campaign came after the council realized that the settlers are quite ignorant and complacent about autonomy and its repercussions for them.

The draft of the document says: "Ignorance, repression, and apathy lead many good Israelis to erroneously think of autonomy as a nice political plan. Ignorance is an excellent sedative for those who want to be sedated, but it is a dangerous drug for those who want to grow and prosper. For some reason, many of us naively believe that what we are talking about is the transfer of certain municipal powers to the Arabs, which would have no great effect on our lives and on Israel's continued rule in the area.

"The truth is that, according to the plan, the Arabs would not only be running their own lives, but would also gain vast control over ours. We would no longer be able to drive on roads traversing Arab towns and villages because if we were attacked, the Army would be unable to rush to our rescue. According to the autonomy agreement, the Army would remove troops and bases from populated Arab locations in the territories. This is explicitly stated in the official document that Begin signed in Camp David.

"Armed Arab policemen would stop us at checkpoints on the way from Elqana to Ari'el, from Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem, from Efrat to Bethlehem. The Camp David accords explicitly mention 'a strong Palestinian policing force.' These policemen would be responsible for our security if clashes erupt between Arabs and Jews on the roads. They would have the authority to decide who was the victim and who the assailant, whom to arrest and whom to protect. Israeli policemen or soldiers would not be there.

"The plan does not take into account harsher possibilities, such as an Arab mob attacking a Jewish settlement. In that case, too, the Army would not be able to intervene, and we might find ourselves in a situation, reminiscent of the British Mandate period, in which the official police force either cannot or does not want to protect us and self-defense is illegal.

"For the slightest fault in the electricity, water, or telephone networks, we would be absolutely dependent on the favors of Arab clerks in the autonomy's offices. It is not too hard to guess that they would not go out of their way to repair it. Two weeks without electricity would be routine.

"Arab houses would soon sprout near the fences of our settlements and along the 'bypass' roads. The Israeli Government promised in the 'Herzliyya talks' that the autonomy authorities would be empowered to issue building licenses, and there is no doubt that they would

be issuing thousands of them (while new Israeli settlements would be established 'only with the agreement of the other side;' in other words, not at all).

"Hundreds of thousands of Arab from Jordan and Lebanon are supposed to 'return' to the autonomy area. The Camp David accords promise them that right. This vast number of people would adversely affect the demographic balance of all of Eretz Yisra'el."

The authors of the document assume that on the eve of the deliberations on the permanent status at the end of three years of autonomy, Israel will strive to prove the world that the transition period was good for peace and that it should be seen as the end of the concessions it is prepared to make and become a permanent arrangement. In contrast, the Arabs will make every possible effort to prove to the world that half-baked coexistence is impossible. "Therefore, from the day autonomy is established, every act of violence and terror will serve the political interests of the Arabs, while every day of peace and tranquillity will help Israeli interests. Given those circumstances, we will yet miss the good old days of the intifadah," the document concludes.

Ne'eman Discusses Contacts With Russian Officials

TA1212090391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, "just back" from a "short visit" to the USSR, by Yaron Wilensky and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Wilensky] Shalom, Minister Ne'eman.

[Ne'eman] Good morning.

[Wilensky] Would it be correct to still call it the Soviet Union? You can tell; you were there.

[Ne'eman] No, it is really no longer the Soviet Union. I would say that the main feature of my visit was that each of the professional counterparts with whom I met began by presenting me their new credentials, which is to say whom they represent. Actually, they represented Russia.

[Levi] Are you saying that everyone is looking for a separate prop and that there are no longer central institutions, at least not where you had contact?

[Ne'eman] The chairman of the former Soviet Research Institute, with whom I had a serious discussion, began by showing me a letter from the current Russian Government, which states that it assumes every responsibility for the Soviet space program and that the Russian Parliament has decided to allocate all the necessary funding to maintain the space program in full and has even decided to add to it.

[Wilensky] But in the West, particularly in the United States, concern has recently been expressed not so much over the space program but more over who controls the Army. Will the Army not split up? Whose hand is on the button, so to speak? Has any political body addressed the Army in that way?

[Ne'eman] I, too, have serious fears about the prospect of the disappearance of some of the 30,000 nuclear bombs dispersed in four republics. Who knows what some captain or major could do with a weapon under his control if the necessary safety catches are missing or even if they exist? Still, on the higher level, it was interesting that the former Soviet defense minister and chief of staff both said that as of this moment their budgets come from Russia. It was obvious that their loyalty now is to Russia.

[Levi] The way you see things from having been there, does it look as though they are heading toward civil war?

[Ne'eman] It was not my impression that this is the trend right now. The impression at the moment is that the USSR is disappearing, that all the positions that had previously been held on the federal level—namely, the entire nuclear issue; not only the nuclear weapons but also nuclear energy, an issue that was also under the jurisdiction of federal bodies—have now been handed over to Russia. All these issues have shifted to Russia.

[Wilensky] In the prevailing situation, can one discuss cooperation with that country or is it preferable to wait and see whom to do business with?

[Ne'eman] Their emphasis was on continuity, on telling the foreigners that they need not worry because they had instituted some sort of structural change. To give you an example to illustrate this, Russian Energy Minister (Lotukhin) [title as heard], with whom I met, told me: As of now, Yeltsin has instructed me to assume responsibility also for certain issues which had previously not been under Russia's responsibility, and I am prepared to take responsibility for all the issues on which you had commitments from the USSR.

[Wilensky] Thank you very much, Minister Yuval Ne'eman.

Predictions of 400,000 Soviet Immigrants in 1992

TA1212081391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] There are growing signs that the mass exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union may resume. Based on data and testimonies from the field, Uri Gordon, director of the Jewish Agency Immigration Department, believes that 400,000 immigrants should be expected in 1992. As may be recalled, official forecasts mention 200,000 immigrants or less.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the Jewish Agency has recently decided to close some transit stations in Eastern Europe, but Gordon believes that the hardships in the Soviet Union will bring over 50,000 immigrants to the transit stations each month.

Data on Economic Activity in Territories

TA1212141291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 91 p A4

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] The Central Bureau of Statistics released data comparing economic activity in the territories before and after the intifadah, for the first time yesterday. According to these data, the gross local product in the West Bank in 1989-1990 (excluding olives and olive oil) exceeded its level in the previous three years by 2 to 5 percent. However, the population growth during the same period was higher. Consequently, the gross local product per capita dropped 4 to 7 percent. Per capita disposable national income in 1989-1990 was 3 to 6 percent lower than in 1986-1987.

In the Gaza Strip, the gross local product in 1989-1990 rose 7 to 9 percent. However, compared to 1986-1987 it dropped 3 to 5 percent per capita. During the same period disposable national income remained almost unchanged, but, due to population growth, per capita disposable national income dropped 11 to 12 percent.

In view of the situation in the territories in 1988-1990, it was difficult to gather data about the economic activity in general and about trading with Israel in particular. As a result, changes in private consumption, investment, imports, and exports in the West Bank for 1988-1990 and in the Gaza Strip for 1988 could not be calculated.

The data also shows that revenues from work outside the West Bank (mainly in Israel) rose 12 percent in 1989-1990, compared with 1986-1987. This reflects an increase in hourly wages, in terms of purchasing power, in Israel.

In contrast, revenues from work outside the Gaza Strip in 1989- 1990 dropped 21 percent, which reflects a significant drop in revenues from work in the Arab countries and a 12-percent drop in revenues from work in Israel. During the same period, the number of hours worked by Gazans in Israel dropped 19 percent. Therefore, revenues declined despite the fact that hourly wages increased in terms of purchasing power.

'Intelligence Sources' on Syrian Army Buildup

TA1112183691 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Dec 91 p 6

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Text] Syria will set up an infrastructure for the production of Soviet Scud surface-to-surface missiles. The infrastructure will be built as part of the Scud-C deal between Syria and North Korea.

Western intelligence sources pointed to a worrisome development in the scope and direction of Syria's military procurement over the past year. In the field of surface-to-surface missiles—ever since Syria received SA-5 missiles, immediately following the Lebanon war—Syria had not purchased strategic weapons, mainly due to Soviet imposed restrictions on the sale of such weaponry to the Syrians. Over the past year, following the agreements it made with South Korea, Syria stepped up its purchase of surface-to-surface missiles.

The North Korean ship Mofo, which carries Scud-C missiles for Syria, was supposed to arrive at its destination at the beginning of December. It seems that publications in the West made the ship change its course or schedule: it has not yet arrived in a Syrian port. Western intelligence sources noted that it is not inevitable that the Scud-C missiles aboard the ship will eventually reach a third country—Iran, for example—that already has such missiles.

In the framework of its armament buildup since the Gulf war, Syria will double the number of the advanced T-72 tanks in its possession within the next 12 to 18 months, going from 1,000 to 2,000 tanks. The new tanks are being supplied by the USSR and Czechoslovakia, despite Czechoslovak President Havel's pledge to reconsider the deal.

According to data published last year by the Center for Strategic Studies, until last year, more than half of the Syrian tanks were of the outdated T-55 and T-62 type, and another 25 percent were of the T-72 type. Upon the completion of its procurement plan in the Eastern Bloc, Syrian ground forces will have undergone a significant change, making a large part of it of the highest quality.

Information Minister on Arab Ties, Peace Talks

JN1012072991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The bottom line that Jordan would consider as a tangible breakthrough in Arab-Israeli peace talks is a freeze in Israel's settlement activity in the occupied territories, Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said Monday.

"If the Israelis are serious for peace, then they can show it by a freeze of (Jewish) settlement (in the occupied territories)," said Mr. al-Sharif in an informal meeting with foreign journalists.

Asked whether the demand for a halt to Israel's settlement activity was a "condition" to pursue peace talks with the Jewish state, the minister said: "It is not a condition. It is only common sense."

Mr. al-Sharif pointed out that the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories were "an important element in the continuation of the peace process" since land for peace is the basis for the peace negotiations.

"They are swallowing (Arab) land day by day and this is not acceptable," he told the journalists in the first such encounter after he assumed office two months ago. "Quite soon there will not be any land to talk about. No land (means) no peace."

Israel has rebuffed every call for a halt to its dedicated drive to settle the occupied territories as a gesture of goodwill against the backdrop of the peace process, which was launched in Madrid with a U.S.-Soviet sponsored peace conference Oct. 30.

The Palestinians, who are attending peace talks with Israel in a joint delegation with Jordan, have repeatedly affirmed that one of their first priorities is to ensure a freeze in settlements in the occupied territories.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said last month after talks in Washington that the issue of settlements could be on the negotiating table, but he ruled out any move to halt settlement activities in the occupied territories.

Mr. al-Sharif, the first-ever Jordanian information minister with decades of experience in journalism, disagreed with a suggestion that Jordan felt "betrayed" by the obvious American reluctance to adopt a firm position in last week's wrangle over the Dec. 4 date for the resumption of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks in Washington.

"I would not describe it that way," he said. "We had hoped that the U.S. would be more forthcoming in dealing with Israel's delaying tactics regarding the meeting in Washington."

However, the minister said, "this does not mean or represent any retraction from the American commitment to the peace process.

"We do not see this as a slowing down on Washington's commitment."

Israel, in protest over what it described as American efforts to dictate terms to the Middle East negotiating parties, turned down the Dec. 4 date set by the U.S. and the Soviet Union and managed to delay the talks until Tuesday.

The U.S. obviously anxious not to antagonise its long-time Middle East ally, played down the dispute and was seen as not only letting Israel have its way but also going out of its way to appease the Jewish state and dilute adverse media impact against it.

Mr. al-Sharif said Jordan's strained relations with some of the Arab countries in the wake of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait were on the mend.

"There is a certain improvement in our relations with Egypt," a leader of the anti-Iraq Arab camp which Jordan did not join. Mr. al-Sharif said, recalling that His Majesty King Husayn and Husni Mubarak had exchanged messages through envoys who visited Cairo and Amman in the last 15 days. "Further steps are needed" for a total reconciliation, but "relations are warming up," the information minister added.

Likewise, there is also an upturn in Jordanian-Saudi relations, he said, and did not rule out a possible meeting between King Husayn and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah on the fringes of the Islamic summit which opened in Dakar, Senegal, on Monday.

Better ties between Jordan and Kuwait have to wait, he said without elaboration. Kuwaiti leaders, who have accused Jordan of "supporting" Iraq in the Gulf crisis, are said to oppose any immediate warm-up in ties with Amman in the post-Gulf war era.

Turning to Jordan's relations with Syria—co-attendants in peace talks with Israel—Mr. al-Sharif said, "there may be difference in opinion" on the pace of the peace negotiations—particularly vis-a-vis multilateral talks on regional issues—"but we have no quarrels between us."

King Husayn said in a recent interview that he was confident that Syria would attend the multilateral talks, scheduled to be held in Moscow Jan. 28-29, despite its declared stand that it would be futile to join such negotiations unless progress was achieved in the bilaterals.

The philosophy that Jordan applies in relations with other Arab countries, Mr. al-Sharif said, is that "we are facing challenges that can be dealt with not on a national level" but on a pan-Arab level which requires intense inter-Arab consultations and coordination.

"We are pushing in these channels," added Mr. al-Sharif, who is also handling the foreign affairs portfolio in the

absence of Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, who is in Dakar attending the Islamic summit.

Mr. al-Sharif, who quit as chief editor of Jordan's al-Dustur Arabic language daily in October before becoming minister of information, described Wednesday's meeting with the journalists as aimed at familiarising himself with the foreign press corps in the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia Reportedly Writes Off Debts

JN1212104691 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 12 Dec 91 pp 1, 4

[By the economic affairs editor]

[Excerpt] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that the Saudi Government has decided to write off all debts owed by Jordan, which stand at 148 million dinars. The move falls within the framework of the Saudi decision announced yesterday at the Organization of the Islamic Conference [ICO] summit to write off all debts owed by the less developed ICO member states.

Sources at the Central Bank of Jordan and the Finance Ministry have asserted that Saudi Arabia had given loans to Jordan through the Saudi Development Fund. It had also given direct loans through the Saudi Government and made a deposit at the Central Bank of Jordan to bolster Jordan's reserves of foreign currency. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y Criticizes Dakar Summit, Defends Iraq

JN1212111091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Dec 91 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Dakar Summit"]

[Text] All Africans, particularly the Senegalese, have the right to be disappointed by the Arabs and to express this disappointment in one way or another. As His Majesty King Husayn has affirmed, holding the sixth Islamic summit in an African Muslim country is an important event. It should have been a serious and true starting point toward a large-scale Islamic action to have both the Arabs and Africans on the same road. However, Arab absence—an absence described by the Senegalese and many observers as deliberate—has wasted an important opportunity, the importance of which can only be realized by those who participated in the Dakar summit.

Therefore, through their officials and news media, President Abdou Diouf and the Senegalese people considered His Majesty King Husayn's attendance and active participation in the summit as confirmation that there are Arabs who are aware of Islamic brotherhood and who conceive horizons for cooperation and joint action between the Arabs and Africans on the basis of true Islamic brotherhood, something which is neither desired by the West nor permitted under the new world order.

Jordan's participation in the Dakar summit, led by His Majesty King Husayn and with such a high-ranking official delegation, as well as King Husayn's address to the summit, have indicated to Muslim brothers inside and outside Africa the importance of wagering on the values and principles of Islam, the true wealth that can realize and protect the Muslims' might. Any other wealth, given the existing weakness of Muslims and the continuing conflicts and exchange of grudges among their governments, is cause for humiliation. This issue was explained in detail by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani when he asked the leaders of the rich Islamic countries to imagine how the West would view them if they did not possess that wealth and how this West insists on dealing with them arrogantly and contemptuously despite the existence of this wealth in our hands...!

Much has to be said about the Dakar summit at the right time, but the most important thing to be said and stressed now is that Senegal—people, government, and president—have done their best to host the summit and invite all to attend with a view to forging an active, tolerant, and cohesive Islamic world. However, certain international and Islamic parties did not allow them to do so as proved by the tragic fact that the Muslims met at a summit and called for continuing the siege against the Muslim Iraqi people, slaughtering their children and elderly, and keeping the Iraqi file open. This is happening at a time when Washington is refusing to close the hostage file until the return of the bodies of two hostages killed in Lebanon and until the Muslims agree to what the United States wants, as if the UN Charter is more sacred than Islam, as if the UN Security Council resolutions are more important than God's commandments, and as if slaughtering the Iraqi people with the U.S. knife should continue in the Islamic way. O God, forgive our nation, leaders, and peoples; protect us through Islam and protect Islam from us.

Summit Called 'Big Disappointment'

JN1212090291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Wise Words, Poor Reaction"]

[Text] The sixth summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in Dakar, Senegal, which ended a day earlier Wednesday was a big disappointment. Only a few Islamic heads of state, especially from the Arab World, attended it. This record number of absentees badly reflects on the whole OIC movement and could give cause for questioning its relevance in contemporary international affairs. Considerable hope was attached to holding the Dakar summit because it was hoped that the top-level gathering could have served as a valuable forum to iron out simmering Arab differences and a platform to launch creative Islamic thinking on present day issues. It turned out, however, that fewer than anticipated countries were actually interested in making the summit a success relevant to current events and thoughts. What emerged at the end of the Islamic

meeting is something of the "tres ordinaire" with nothing really spectacular or thought provoking to record. This is a big disservice to Islam and to the Muslim Ummah [nation] which pinned great hopes on the OIC forum.

The immediate question that comes to mind, however, is whether the OIC is going to face the same fatal fate that the Non-Aligned Movement has met in the wake of the collapse of the communist order and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. There are ongoing diehard attempts to resurrect the Non-Aligned Movement by replacing the past East-West rivalries and confrontations with present North-South differences. Something of the same order could be envisaged for the Islamic Movement, since it also have rich and poor. And in the true spirit of Islam the rich must help lessen the burden on the poor.

But the results and conclusions of the Dakar gathering do not suggest that anything of this sort was or is in the cards.

This state of affairs calls for an overhaul of the OIC in its entirety. In such an endeavour, the perspective, goals and even the infrastructure of the organisation need to be examined in order to make them more relevant to current regional and international developments. In his address to the summit Tuesday, His Majesty King Husayn expressed hope that the Islamic Ummah would "start a new process of stock-taking, of reviewing and assessing the present situation in the light of the modern age which requires hard work on our part if we are to achieve progress, dignity and security for the Ummah." From what had emerged from the summit, it seems the King's wise words fell on deaf ears. But after all a weak nation can only come up with weak resolution. And as long as petty interest, not the Ummah's goodwill, led Arab and Muslim actions, the hope for revival and for a new age are only dim.

Prince Hasan Receives Iranian Majles Delegation

JN1112105191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent received in his office today the deputy speaker of the Iranian Majles and his delegation.

During the meeting, his highness stressed that it is essential that the Islamic world agree on presenting a clear political stand to the world. He pointed out that Jordan is in the heart of the Islamic world and has been supporting its own right and the rights of the Arabs, and has greatly sacrificed and is still sacrificing for these rights.

His highness noted that differences of opinion sometimes spring from concern for public interests. He called for amity among the Islamic states and for promoting bilateral relations between Jordan and Iran.

For their part, the Iranian delegation members expressed admiration for the ancient Islamic sites and features they have seen in Jordan. They expressed gratitude for the hospitality and good reception accorded to them during their presence in Jordan.

The delegation members touched on the need to continue with and expand the maintenance of the tombs of the prophet's companions in Jordan. They expressed concern over the current events in the occupied Palestinian territory and the Palestinian people's suffering and voiced their readiness to support the Palestinian steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupation.

The Iranian delegation hoped that a chair will be earmarked in one of the Jordanian universities for the Ja'farite [Shiite] Islamic science.

Delegation Leaves Amman 10 Dec

JN1112154991 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Amman, 11 Dec (PETRA)—Iranian Majles Deputy Speaker Hoseyn Hashemian and his accompanying delegation left Amman yesterday evening at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan during which he met with Crown Prince Hasan the Regent and other Jordanian officials.

In a statement to PETRA Hashemian thanked Dr.'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat for the warm welcome he and his delegation were accorded.

Hashemian said: We must consolidate relations between our two councils and through Jordan we can help our Palestinian brothers in the occupied Arab territories and bolster our relations in all fields with the hope that this will bring about the liberation of holy Jerusalem from the usurpers.

Hashemian added: The Iranian Majles and the Jordanian Parliament have identical viewpoints on many issues of interest to the Islamic nation.

He emphasized the importance of exchanging visits between the two councils to enhance relations of brotherhood and cooperation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, saw off the Iranian delegation.

Finance Minister Outlines 1992 Draft Budget

JN1112142591 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The minister of finance today read a statement before the House of Representatives outlining the main features of the state budget for 1992. Details in the following report:

The House of Representatives met this morning under Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat. The Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and cabinet ministers attended.

The House heard a statement by the Finance Minister Basil Jardanah on the draft state budget for the year 1992. The statement said that among the most significant characteristics of the new budget is the increase in the volume of recurrent and capital government expenditures. It said increased government expenditures were given a priority in order to expand basic services to raise the standard of living of low income groups, and to resolve problems such as unemployment, pockets of poverty, water resources, and the environment. The statement also said that the new budget is characterized with increased self-reliance with a view to bolstering the national effort to resume the healthy growth of the economy, and to contain the domestic and external bottlenecks which the Jordanian economy has been suffering from in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

The statement asserted that the government will encourage productive investment, and will continue to strive to resolve the country's economic problems through programs, measures, and plans it had initiated earlier. The statement noted that despite the heavy financial burdens dictated by the meager resources of the country, the government has sought to make the maximum utilization of the available resources, and to distribute these resources fairly. It also noted that despite the increased government expenditures, the financial burden incurred by the citizens has not increased significantly.

The statement said that the government will implement a medium term economic rectification program for the years 1992 through 1998, with the aim of restoring confidence in the national economy, and maintaining monetary and fiscal stability. It said that program will seek to achieve a real growth in the gross national product of well over 3 percent in 1992, and will continue to rise in subsequent years. It will also seek to reduce inflation rates to reach by 1997 half the ratio that existed in 1991. The program will also seek to reduce the budget deficit from 18 percent of the GNP in 1991 to 5 percent of GNP in 1997. It will also seek to reduce the deficit in the balance of trade from 27.7 percent in 1992 to 11.7 percent in 1998. It will also seek to reduce the deficit in the balance of payments from 24 percent in 1991 to about 2 percent in 1997.

According to the draft state budget for 1992, the revenues have been estimated at 1.16 billion JD's [Jordanian dinars]. Expenditures have been estimated at 1.27 billion JD's. Therefore, the deficit in the state budget for 1992 will be about 107 million JD's.

Officials Affirm Bread Prices To Remain Stable

JN0712085191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The government will not introduce any increase to the prices of bread and the product will not be added to the list of subsidised foodstuffs sold through ration food coupons.

The decision was taken Thursday by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and announced at a meeting with Minister of Supply Muhammad al-Saqqaf and senior ministry officials.

Only powdered milk, sugar, and rice are being sold at subsidised prices to Jordanian citizens through coupons, a system introduced late last year to prevent manipulation of prices and smuggling of food commodities abroad.

The government has no intention of applying the food coupon system to bread, which is considered as a basic food commodity for Jordanian citizens, said the prime minister at the meeting. Al-Sharif Zayd also stressed that it was important for the Ministry of Supply to adopt strict measures designed to prevent any manipulation of prices of basic foodstuffs.

The prime minister emphasised that the Civil Service Consumer Corporation should ensure that all commodities are sold to government employees and their families at cost price.

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. al-Saqqaf presented a general briefing about the supply situation in the Kingdom and the Ministry of Supply's plans and programmes to cooperate with the private sector to ensure continued services to limited-income groups.

Following the meeting, Mr. al-Saqqaf said that the prime minister had reaffirmed the government's concern over the food security issue for the citizens at this crucial stage. At the meeting, discussions covered the problems encountered by the ministry and matters related to maintaining strategic supplies in the country, Mr. al-Saqqaf said.

He said that the Ministry of Supply will maintain and adhere to its basic plans of ensuring sufficient supplies of wheat, flour, sugar, rice, milk and other basic commodities.

Higgins' Body Reportedly To Be Returned 'Soon'

NC1212102091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has said that the UN forces will use the al-Naqurah-Beirut coastal line for transportation to the port and airport in Beirut.

Goksel said that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has informed the wife of Colonel William Higgins that Higgins' body will soon be sent to his family.

In another development, Shaykh Ahmad Talib, the imam of Jibshit village, has rejected any linkage between the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by Israel and the release of the Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon. He said the Hebrew state can negotiate for the release of its soldiers in return for resistance men who were detained during attacks against it.

Deployment Agreement Reached 'In Principle'

NC1112073791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has said that UNIFIL does not object to the Lebanese Army's deployment any any region. He rejected, however, any joint deployment by the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL.

UNIFIL Commander General Wahlgren and Army Commander General Emille Lahhud met the day before yesterday to discuss the Army's deployment in UNIFIL areas of operation. It is reported that an agreement in principle was reached to keep the Lebanese Army stationed in Tayr Dibbah and to expand its deplopyment in a number of neighboring villages, including Bidyas, al-'Abbasiyah, Ma'rakah, Tura, and Burg Rahhal. The agreement, however, needs official and final approval by UN headquarters in New York.

Birri, Fadlallah Discuss South, Peace Talks

NC1212101391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri met with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah yesterday. Minister Birri said that the meeting is a continuation of the first meeting, and that the current developments in the south and the continuous Israeli attacks against the south and its inhabitants were discussed.

In his statement, Minister Birri said: We also discussed the internal situation and other issues. I certainly can say that our views were completely congruent and that ties are good and, God willing, will be strengthened.

Minister Birri said that his stand on the international conference and peace negotiations is well known, adding: We expect absolutely nothing from the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel.

On the issue of Tayr Dibbah, Minister Birri said: We hope that the UN forces and their command in New York will decide on this issue because the Army will not go backwards, and this decision is irrevocable.

Hizballah Leader on Intifadah, Washington Talks

NC1212080791 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has stated that the most important accomplishment of the blessed intifadah in Palestine is the fact that it has overcome all the dangers it has faced. Speaking to a delegation from an institution for the oppressed, the wounded, and the handicapped people, his eminence al-Musawi noted that what the intifadah achieved is a miracle that has gone beyond all expectations. The fact that the intifadah is entering its fifth successive year is a fundamental part of this great miracle in the face of the Zionist military machine.

His eminence al-Musawi pointed out that the intifadah possesses self-sustaining capabilities derived from the history and message of Islam, the conscience of the intifadah activists, and their genuine principles. He stressed that the determination of the mujahidin and the resisters is enough to foil the schemes being concocted against the intifadah in Palestine and the Islamic resistance in Lebanon. He affirmed that the intifadah will act as a barrier in the face of those challenging the voice of freedom and resistance, while the resistance men in Lebanon will act as an impregnable shield and front in the face of all challenges and schemes against the intifadah.

In response to a question, al-Musawi said the stands of the Palestinian officials are not binding to their people, and no commitments could affect the determination of the Palestinian people. He asked: Which of the negotiating countries in Washington truly reflects the will of the Palestinian people? He added: The same as the 17 May Agreement concluded by the Lebanese regime and parliament [with Israel in 1983] was not binding to us, whatever commitments the Arabs and the Palestinians may conclude concerning the issue of Palestine and the sacred sites will not be binding for us as well, and we will seek to confront and abort them at all levels.

France's Dumas Arrives in Beirut; Talks Begin

NC1212114991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Beirut airport at approximately 1230 today on a visit to Lebanon that will last until tomorrow. He was received at the airport by Faris Buwayz, the foreign minister; Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, acting director general of the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Riyad al-Qintar, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Daniel Husson, the French ambassador; and embassy staffers. Immediately upon his arrival, Buwayz and Dumas and the two delegations left for the Bustrus Palace [Foreign Ministry], where the first round of Lebanese-French talks was held.

Commentary Views Israeli 'Evasion' in Peace Talks

JN1112154491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1244 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Washington is currently seeing a new chapter of the ceaseless Israeli evasion in a climate in which nothing pays other than clarity, truthfulness, and advancing positions in the direction of a just and comprehensive peace; and in which nothing pays other than rising above the penchant for greed and abandonment of aggressive policies. On the heels of the artificial crisis contrived by Tel Aviv by failing to send its delegation to Washington on 4 December as scheduled by the cosponsors of the peace conference to resume the peace talks, not to mention scores of other obstacles laid by the Israelis in the way of the second phase of the peace conference, the Zionist delegation today enters the conference hall to consecrate our convictions, as well as those of the entire world, that it came to Washington to abort the peace conference, dispel the hopes pinned on it, and return the international endeavors made to achieve peace in the Middle East to square one so that all parties will eventually reach the point of despair and erase from their minds and dreams any possibility of attaining peace. The Israeli delegation to Washington seems to have reneged on the idea of meeting a Palestinian delegation outside the framework of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation after it had met the delegation in Madrid as an independent team with a separate working paper and a separate agenda for talks.

The Israeli delegation to the Washington talks is nowadays sitting before the Syrian delegation to discuss anything except substantive issues, the tackling of which forced the convening of the peace conference. It is demanding everything it deems appropriate to obstruct a discussion of peace elements. Moreover, it is putting the cart before the horse by circumventing talks on anything that would make peace possible. Indeed, it wants to reap the fruits of peace out of a desire to take everything in return for nothing, and not even a commitment to anything. The world is increasingly amazed, just as we are, to see Israel getting involved in the peace conference not to implement UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, and not to return the occupied territories to their owners, but rather to write off UN resolutions in this regard, push them into oblivion, consecrate its occupation of the occupied Arab territories, reap all conceivable fruits of peace, and take from the Arabs through peaceful means what it has been unable to take through the force of arms.

In light of all this, can anybody in the world envisage the possible attainment of peace in this region under occupation, and as long as the policy of settlement building, and expansion is maintained? By the same token, can anybody conceive of the ability to attain peace as long as immigrants from all parts of the world continue to flood Arab territories? Can anybody imagine that we will accept to discuss the outcome of peace with the Tel Aviv delegations before the wheels of peace roll along their proper tracks, at least for once, and before all parties to the conflict agree on a solution to all substantive issues, which are at the heart of the conflict, and which could cause it to blow up? It is an incomprehensible, crazy Israeli idea that can win the support of nobody. Indeed, the only person who can view it seriously is he who wants the peace conference to commit suicide at the beginning of the road.

Afghanistan

Rebel Party Leader Discusses Moscow Talks

NC0612200591 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Nov 91 p 13

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mortazavi, president of the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami Party, Islamic Unity Party, of Afghanistan by unidentified JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Following your return from Moscow you described the talks between Afghan and Russian officials as successful. Mr. Rabbani in Peshawar stated that the result of the Moscow talks were far less than their expectations. Can you give us some more information on the agreements reached?

[Mortazavi] The visit by the Afghan mojahedin delegation to Moscow should be viewed from the political and religious perspectives. This is why this visit was important and historic. From the religious perspective, the majority of the delegation members were clergymen and Afghan mojahedin leaders. The other point is that the delegation went to a country where communism ruled for more than 70 years, and it was welcomed by people who have always been at war with religion.

During the visit we noticed that the current atmosphere of the Soviet Union is against communism; religious dignitaries are now welcome for having criticized the former ruling ideology. For example, we can point to how the visit by the mojahedin delegation was reported by the media, especially on Moscow television, where most of the air time was given to the religious dignitaries. This tangible act demonstrated to us that the Soviet Union is no longer antireligious but rather welcomes religion. Another example was the meeting of the ulema [clergy] of the Russian Federation with the mojahedin delegation. Most of the ulema of the various states of the Russian Federation were present. The mojahedin were asked to convey their call to the regional Muslim governments to reconstruct 14,000 mosques that were destroyed during communist rule. If we view the Soviet Union's domestic situation from a religious angle, there is extensive anticommunist religious propaganda. In fact, during our stay we saw that Moscow television aired a picture of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. The picture was accompanied by a phrase. When we went to the hotel, I asked one of the correspondents what the phrase that accompanied the picture said. He said that Russian television has been airing for some time Imam Khomeyni's picture together with excerpts from his letter to Gorbachev in which he spoke against communism. We found this extremely surprising and interesting.

From the political viewpoint, the visit carried intense significance because the Soviets had considered the Afghan problem a domestic one which should be solved by the Afghans. The Afghan mojahedin, however, believed that the major player in the Afghan problem was the Soviet Union, not the Kabul regime. During the meeting Yuliy Vorontsov had in Tehran with the Islamic Unity Party's coalition council, he emphasized that the major player with whom the mojahedin have to deal is the Kabul government. During our visit, which took place at the official invitation of Moscow, the fact that the Soviets are the major player with whom the mojahedin have to deal was emphasized.

During a meeting, Yeltsin's deputy—who headed the Soviet delegation and who was once the commander in chief of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan—described the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan as wrong and said that as compensation, the Soviet Union should help the Afghans solve their problems and create an Islamic government which is what all the people of Afghanistan want. Any government imposed on Afghanistan from the outside will be rejected by the Soviet Union and will be going against the current.

The mojahedin also met with Shevardnadze and Pankin and with the foreign ministers of Tajikstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. They met with some high-ranking officials of the Soviet and RSFSR parliaments, during which the Soviet intervention in and aggression against Afghanistan were condemned. This was a victory for the mojahedin. It is extremely significant that the Soviet officials in the center of the Soviet Union condemned their country's intervention in Afghanistan.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Considering all that you have said, why are the Russians continuing their arms and economic assistance to the Kabul regime?

[Mortazavi] There is no doubt that the Soviets are looking for a foothold in Afghanistan. During the meeting they pursued several major objectives. First, they want to be able to inform the Soviet public on why a large number of Soviet soldiers were killed, wounded, missing, and being held hostage by the mojahedin.

The Soviet people believe that supporting the Kabul regime will drag out the captivity of the Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan. Therefore, calming the public, which has been greatly provoked, was one of the objectives of the visit.

Another issue is the official declaration on ending support for the Kabul regime. The Soviets concluded a long time ago that supporting Najibollah is not in Moscow's interests because he will inevitably go—either through political or through military pressure. With this meeting, the Soviet Union will not only come closer to the mojahedin, who will play an important role in Afghanistan's future, but will also have good diplomatic relations with the future government of that country.

Another point is the nonpayment of compensation to the future government of Afghanistan. In their meetings with the mojahedin, Soviet officials repeatedly condemned the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan and emphasized that the responsibility lies on the shoulders

of the governments before Gorbachev, emphasizing that the current government is exempt from any blame.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] You have made a good point. You yourself agree that Moscow is after a foothold in Afghanistan. In view of this and in view of the weakened position of the Russians, was there any reason for this visit? Don't you think that this visit was more beneficial to the Soviets than the Afghans?

[Mortazavi] The outcome of this visit will depend on the following phases and steps that the mojahedin take. If the mojahedin are able to make the best possible use of the joint communique that was issued in which Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan is strongly condemned, this visit will certainly have been to the benefit of the mojahedin. If, however, the combatant Afghan groups adopt a weak stand in making use of the results of the meetings, naturally the delegation's Moscow visit will benefit Moscow.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] On the whole, what agreements were reached in Moscow between the mojahedin and Russian delegations?

[Mortazavi] After several rounds of talks between the mojahedin delegation and Soviet officials, a joint communique was issued, the implementation of which has been assigned to a joint committee. Here are some important points of the communique:

—The Soviet aggression and intervention in Afghanistan will be condemned.
—The Soviet Union's role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan will be an active one.
—The Soviet Union's military assistance to Afghanistan will be cut.
—Muslim prisoners who are being kept in Kabul prisons will be released.
—All Soviet captives in Afghanistan will be released.
—A transitional government in Afghanistan will be formed.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] On what basis will the transitional government that the mojahedin want, and which is to be formed in two months, be founded? Which groups will it include?

[Mortazavi] The Islamic Unity Party's announcement that the transitional government would be formed on 31 December is incorrect. The transitional Islamic government should be formed as soon as possible in Afghanistan. This government will be active until the grounds for elections are paved.

The formation and mechanism of the transitional government have not yet been specified. What is definite, however, is that the mojahedin will decide the new composition of the government and will inform the United Nations of their decision.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What impact will the opposition voiced by some of the mojahedin leaders, namely Hekmatyar and Sayyaf, to the Moscow talks and their results have on the formation of the transitional government?

[Mortazavi] Hekmatyar, Sayyaf, and some of the other mojahedin leaders did not oppose the principle of the visit and of talks with Moscow officials. What they opposed was the approach of the visit. Hekmatyar believed that the framework of the talks should have been defined before we went to Moscow. Sayyaf's opposition was to the joint communique. We believe he will agree with us once he meets with Rabbani. We think they are just unaware of the depth of the discussions. Once they are informed, they will confess that the outcome of the visit was positive. If these controversies continue until the formation of the transitional government, and if they do not participate in this government, naturally the transitional government will fail.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Has the mojahedin delegation envisioned an initiative with which to confront such controversies, which harm unity among the mojahedin?

[Mortazavi] Mojahedin and Soviet officials discussed this issue as well, emphasizing to Rabbani that he should inform the mojahedin leaders who were not present in the delegation on the results of the visit and the discussions on the prisoners and other issues. He has tried to do that.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Why was the Afghan delegation not headed by Mr. Mojaddedi, the president of the provisional government?

[Mortazavi] I think that the main reason is due to the differences that have always existed between Mojaddedi and Hekmatyar. Hekmatyar resorted to a political game to remove Mojaddedi from the head of the delegation when he said that he would participate in the group only if Rabbani were the leader. After removing Mojaddedi as head of the delegation, Hekmatyar proposed other conditions, such as delineating the framework of the talks and holding the talks in a third country. His objective was to not have Mojaddedi as head of the delegation, and he achieved this objective.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In your interview after returning from the visit you announced the formation of a quadripartite committee consisting of Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union, and Saudi Arabia. What will this committee's role be in the Afghanistan problem?

[Mortazavi] I mentioned a conference, not a committee, in that interview. Shevardnadze and Pankin suggested we convene a conference with the states you mentioned. Both Soviet leaders emphasized that a conference on the foreign minister level should be held with those four countries so that all the aspects of the Afghanistan issue—political, economic, reconstruction, the return of the Afghan refugees to Afghanistan, and the UN secretary general's plan and ways to implement it—would be discussed and a common decision be adopted. Of course,

this conference and its decisions will not have any bearing on the decisions of the mojahedin and of the people of Afghanistan.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan—which are neighbors and which have accepted 5 million Afghan refugees—and of the Soviet Union—because it is the major player in the Afghanistan war—is justified. What are the Saudis doing here?

[Mortazavi] If you consider the extensive assistance that Saudi Arabia has extended to the Peshawar-based mojahedin, you will find your answer. The possibility that some mojahedin groups may have invited Saudi Arabia to play a role in the future of Afghanistan should not be ignored, especially because Saudi Arabia recently stated that it will give $40 million for Afghanistan's reconstruction. I think that they have gained Pakistan's agreement on this.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] On this basis, America and any other country can play a role in the future of the country if they are ready to invest in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

[Mortazavi] The Afghan mojahedin will not accept U.S. intervention in Afghanistan's affairs, especially if America wants to gain a central role in solving the Afghanistan problem.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Was the trip to Moscow within the framework of the UN secretary general's plan?

[Mortazavi] No, it was not related in any way to the secretary general's plan. This visit came after the tripartite talks in Tehran between the Afghan mojahedin, Pakistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was decided at that meeting to send a delegation of all the mojahedin groups based in Tehran and in Peshawar to the Soviet Union for talks with Soviet officials.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In view of the difficulties that each transitional government in Afghanistan may have in the beginning, do you think that the basis of this plan (provisional government) is a plot to portray the mojahedin as incompetent to govern the country?

[Mortazavi] The return of 5 million refugees to Afghanistan; the clearing of 40 million mines; the reconstruction of bridges; repairing pastures, international highways, villages, cities, and economic, military, and educational centers; and a long list of other problems all exist, and if international forums and neighboring countries do not support the transitional government, we will undoubtably see an increase in problems and disagreement among the mojahedin on how to manage the country.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Will the Russians agree to assist the future government of Afghanistan, and basically speaking, did you discuss this during the Moscow talks?

[Mortazavi] It is obvious that the Russians are trying to gain a foothold in Afghanistan and in the hearts of the people of Afghanistan. In the talks that we had, Soviet officials repeatedly said that their government was not involved in the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan. Russian officials especially pointed out that the aggression was carried out by the Soviet Union, not Russia, and that the occupation was carried out by Brezhnev, not Gorbachev. It seems that obvious, therefore, that Russia will help in Afghanistan's reconstruction.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In the transitional Islamic government, the composition of which is to be determined by the mojahedin, has a role been envisaged for Zaher Shah and the Kabul regime?

[Mortazavi] If the mojahedin can set their differences aside and show initiative on the formation of the transitional government, I do not think that there will be a place for Zaher Shah and Najibollah in the government. If, on the other hand, the mojahedin are unable to solve their differences and tolerate each other, the initiative will be seized from them. In that case, international forums will step forward and find a role for Zaher Shah and the current government on the grounds that all Afghans should have a role in the transitional government.

Therefore, the mojahedin are charting their fate today. If they are united, they can be the decisionmakers; if they are not united, others will make decisions for them.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How hopeful are you that this unity will materialize?

[Mortazavi] The mojahedin have an unprecedented opportunity in Afghan history. If they blow the opportunity, they will never recover because if the initiative is seized by others, they, not the mojahedin, will be making the decisions. If that happens, the other groups will not make decisions with the least bit of concern for the mojahedin.

Government Seeks European Market for Natural Gas

BK1112114091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 11 Dec 91

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 11 (AFP)—Afghanistan has offered to sell natural gas on the European market as internal squabbles within the Soviet Union threaten Kabul's plans to earn badly needed foreign exchange from its prime export product.

Afghan engineers have uncapped the 31 wells in the vast gas fields in Sheberghan to resume supplies to traditional Soviet buyers after a three-year break because of the security situation, but much-awaited exports have not yet resumed, officials said.

President Najibollah, in an address to parliament last week, confirmed that the gas fields in the northern

province of Jowzjan had been activated, but did not say when the supplies would recommence.

Industries and Mines Minister Samad Salah attributed the delay to internal problems between Moscow and the Central Asian republics over such issues as pricing and distribution of the 1.2 billion cubic meters of gas Kabul intends to sell annually.

"Discussions are continuing on the sale of natural gas, but due to the Soviet developments we could not reach any agreement," said Salah, a West German trained geologist, referring to the breakaway of republics from the Soviet Union, a former ally of the Kabul government.

Sales of natural gas to the Soviet Union accounted for 47 percent of Afghanistan's national income at the time they were stopped shortly before the withdrawal of Soviet troops in 1989.

Afghanistan's chief geologist, K.N. Mandarkhail, said Kabul planned to increase exports following the discovery of further large gas reserves in Jowzjan, which is linked to the Soviet borders by a 110-kilometer (66-mile) pipeline.

"We hope to earn more than 300 million dollars annually because of this new find," said Mandarkhail, referring to a fresh 10-billion-cubic meter source now being channelled into Afghanistan's main 120 billion cubic meters of reserves.

He said Kabul had also stepped up efforts to locate new fields as gas would be the country's main money earner in the future.

But, said Salah, "right now the republics are claiming their own shares of our gas exports and they have not settled this dispute yet." Discussions which began in August were continuing, he added.

"We have already approached Hungary and Czechoslovakia and we plan to enter the European market in the near future," Salah said, referring to the delays in the resumption of supplies to the Soviet Union.

Government sources said Kabul had asked a price higher than the previous rate paid by the Soviet Union of 125 dollars per 1,000 cubic meters of gas, and had demanded a mixed payment system by which Afghanistan would receive part of its payment in food and machinery.

"The terms of payment are yet to be decided through general trade agreements, but pricing will have to be according to international rates," Salah said, adding Kabul hoped to deal only through Moscow and it was not inclined to deal individually with the new republics.

"All bank clearance will have to be done in dollars, and besides a mixed payment system we might ask for hard currency for the exports," Salah said.

Moscow last month ended previous barter systems and stipulated Kabul pay for imports from the Soviet with either hard currency or natural gas from 1992. It also said Afghanistan would have to honour its outstanding debts.

From January 1, Moscow also plans to withdraw military support to Najibollah's government which it has supported since 1979 with generous aid handouts.

Cash-strapped Afghanistan, has already sent concrete proposals to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and several other unnamed European importers about deals for gas sales by March 1992, sources said.

"We are on our own now... on the war front and in our trading," one source said. "We are not obliged to sell only to our old customers who always tended to pay us lower rates than global standards."

Salah said: "We are going to sell to everybody.

"We already have some projects and in the near future we will sell to the European market through our existing pipelines," he said.

"It is better to have the market in the Soviet Union and the new republics... but what can be done?" Salah said, adding that existing plans included the export of 400 million cubic meters of gas to Uzbekistan.

Kabul hopes to boost sales to the Soviet Union to 2.8 billion cubic meters by 1995, but is keeping its fingers crossed, sources said.

Afghanistan recently formed a national gas reserve and said total exports would not exceed 60 percent of the stocks. The remaining supplies would be utilised to rebuild the country's shattered agricultural sector.

India

Further on Visit of PRC Premier Li Peng

Calls for Improved Relations

BK1112162091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, who arrived to a warm welcome in New Delhi today, has expressed confidence that his talks with Mr. Narasimha Rao and other Indian leaders would strengthen friendship between the two countries. In a brief chat with newsmen, Mr. Li Peng said the talks could at least start the process of a settlement of the boundary issue.

In a statement, the Chinese prime minister said his visit will help increase mutual understanding and promote an enduring and steady development of Sino-Indian relations. He said a friendly relationship between the two countries would not only be in conformity with the

common aspirations and interests of the two people but also conducive to peace and stability in Asia and the world at large.

Mr. Li Peng recalled the long historical contacts between the two countries and said their people supported each other in their struggle for national independence and liberation.

He said in recent years, especially since the visit to his country by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, there has been progress in relations between the two countries in many fields. Mr. Li Peng hoped that good-neighborly and friendly relations between the two countries will further develop on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. He said his visit provides him an opportunity to convey the cordial greetings and best wishes of the Chinese people to the great people of India.

Responding to questions by newsmen, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the basic objective of the visit of the Chinese prime minister is to broaden and strengthen the entire gamut of our relations. The boundary question is just one of the issues likely to come up at the talks.

Earlier, Mr. Li Peng, who is accompanied by Madam Zhu Lin, was accorded a ceremonial reception in the foreground of Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house]. Contingents of the Army, Navy and Air Force presented a guard of honor while the bands played national anthems of both countries. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, his cabinet colleagues, and diplomats received the Chinese leader.

Our correspondent Indrajit Bahal reports on the significance of the Chinese prime minister's visit:

[Begin Bahal recording] Mr. Li Peng's visit, the first by a Chinese prime minister to India in 31 years, is expected to mark the beginning of a new era in bilateral relations which have been improving steadily since Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's trip to Beijing three years ago. The border question will be one of the major issues likely to be discussed. Whether there is a breakthrough or not on the boundary issue, the two sides feel this should not inhibit them in their bid to promote cooperation in the economic and other fields. The talks between the two countries, accounting for almost half the world population, assume added significance in the rapidly changing world scenario where the Soviet Union, one of the two superpowers, is virtually facing disintegration. The question of new world economic order, more just to developing countries in which category both India and China come, is expected to figure prominently at the talks. The two round of talks between will be followed by signing of three agreements on Friday on border trade, cooperation in outer space, and opening of consulates in Bombay and Shanghai. [end recording]

The Congress-I has hailed the visit of the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, to India and said it will strengthen cooperation between the two countries, both bilaterally and at the regional and international levels. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, said there is a strong need for the two neighboring countries to interact more closely for the benefit of their people.

Welcoming the visit, the Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, expressed the hope that it will strengthen ties between the two countries.

Seeks 'Reasonable Solution' to Border

BK1212012691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] India and China have expressed confidence that they will find a reasonable solution to the boundary question through peaceful means. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that New Delhi is committed to seeking a fair solution to the issue in continence with the dignity and self-respect to the each country. [sentence as heard] He said our approach must necessarily be positive and practical taking into account historical data, traditional customs, and also the present reality. Mr. Rao said a solution must be found within the framework of the national interest and the sentiments of both sides.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese premier expressed the hope that the border will eventually become a bond of friendship between the two countries. Mr. Li Peng said that the solution to the border issue can be found through amicable consultations conducted in a spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation. He said neither India nor China wants the border issue to become an obstacle to the development of bilateral relations.

Cites 'New Vitality' in Ties

BK1212035491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] India and China have expressed confidence that they will find a reasonable solution to the boundary question through peaceful means. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that New Delhi is committed to seeking a fair solution to the issue in continence with the dignity and self-respect to the each country. [passage omitted]

Referring to the complex and volatile world situation, Mr. Li Peng said that India and China must strengthen cooperation and make new contributions to the establishment of a new international order and promotion of world peace.

Recalling Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988, Mr. Li said that it had injected a new vitality to our bilateral ties. He observed that political, economic, technical, and cultural relations have been growing steadily following the late prime minister's visit.

Both prime ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the five principles of coexistence and pointed that these guidelines define the norms of peace and human survival. Both the sides also observed that there is vast potential for mutual cooperation.

The Chinese premier arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a six-day official visit. Mr. Li is accompanied by Madam Zhu Lin and a high-level delegation which includes the ministers for foreign and economic relations. He is the first Chinese prime minister to visit India in 31 years.

The first round of the official-level talks between the two prime ministers will be held this aftrenoon. Mr. Li Peng and Mr. Rao will be assisted by high-level delegations from the two countries. Three agreements are to be signed tomorrow and the end of the second round of talks.

Mr. Li will call on the president, Mr. Venkataraman, today. The president will host a lunch in honor of the visiting prime minister.

Meets With President

BK1212090791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The visiting Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, today called on the president, Mr. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house]. Their talks lasted about half an hour and were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, covering matters of bilateral interest. Mr. Venkataraman referred to the age-old friendly ties between the two countries and hoped that the visit by a Chinese prime minister after three decades will lead to further strengthening of relations. He also expressed the hope that the people-to-people contacts will go a long way in furthering economic and cultural relations. He said both India and China are developing countries and have made great progress in various fields. He said there is also great scope for exchange of experts in the field of science and technology as the two countries have to learn much from each other.

Reciprocating, the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, said the two countries have jointly formulated five principles of coexistence. He told Mr. Venkataraman that the visit by the late prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in 1988 was a milestone in the relations between the two countries and created favorable conditions for interaction in various fields. He expressed the hope that his visit will have positive influence between the people of the two countries as face-to-face contacts always help in building goodwill. Mr. Li Peng invited Mr. Venkataraman to visit his country. Later, the president hosted a lunch in honor of Mr. Li Peng and Madam Zhu Lin.

Earlier, the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, visited Rajghat this morning to pay his respects to the father of tne nation. He laid a wreath at the samadhi [cremation site] of Mahatma [Gandhi] and stood in silence for a while. Later, the Chinese premier planted a sapling of bara champa, an evergreen flowering tree, at Rajghat.

Government 'Stepping Up' Ties With Cambodia

BK1112161491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, has said that India is stepping up its economic and political relations with Cambodia. Mr. Faleiro, who arrived in Bangkok today on his way to Phnom Penh, told our correspondent that India is ready to step up supply of food grains, medical, and other assistance to Cambodia. Welcoming the peace agreement in Cambodia, he said the Indian troops will join the UN peacekeeping force soon.

Rao Calls for 'Friendly' Relations With Pakistan

BK1112154191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has said that the government and the people of India want to establish friendly, cooperative, and tension-free relations with Pakistan. He stated this in a message of thanks he sent in reply to a message from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, congratulating his Indian counterpart on his success in the by-elections to the lower house of parliament.

Commentary Hails UK 'Indictment' of Pakistan

BK1212112591 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It is a matter of satisfaction that international opinion has started condeming Pakistan for aiding and abetting militants in India. British Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr. Christian Gerald Jones unequivocally condemned Pakistan Government for their support to terrorists in India.

The British minister was right in condemning the small minority of Sikhs in Britain actively offering help and support to Sikh militants in India. The British indictment of Pakistan and a stern warning to the pro-Khalistan elements in the United Kingdom is a rebuff to the handful of ruling Conservative Party MP's who, primarily due to the constituency compulsions, often attend gurdwara [Sikh temple] congregation and vouch British support for the cause of Khalistan.

Earlier, on November 14th, the British prime minister, Mr. John Major, while unveiling a bust of Jawaharlal Nehru at India House, had assured all help to defeat the evil of terrorism. Earlier this month the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, accused Pakistan of arming and training the Kashmiri terrorists and warned that it is counterproductive for outside parties to arm or train these men of violence. In his speech, Mr. Hurd told a

Tory party meeting in [name indistinct] that the Kashmir problem could ultimately only be solved by peaceful agreement between India and Pakistan and renewed its offer to help in encouraging progress toward a settlement if that were to the wish of Indian and Pakistan Governments. In this context, he reiterated that the issue be settled within the framework of the Simla agreement, pointing out that the UN resolutions of 1948 and 1949 which were supported by Britain were not implemented by either side and have been overtaken by events.

It may be recalled that Pakistan was an aggressor in Kashmir and it was India that had gone to the UN Security Council to put pressure on Pakistan to vacate its aggression on Kashmir. Not only that, when the world body asked Pakistan to withdraw its forces from occupied Kashmir so that a plebiscite could be held, Pakistan did not do so and continued to remain in occupation of that territory. Accession of Kashmir with India was done under the act passed by the British. But Pakistan because of the Muslim majority population wanted to forcibly snatch it from India. It was at the subsequent elections too that the people of Kashmir gave their verdict to be in India.

Even at the time of partition of India when tempers between Hindus and Muslims ran high, a majority of Muslim population decided not to migrate to Pakistan much against the wishes of the then Pakistan rulers, including Jinnag and Suharwardhi. Even Muslim population had no faith in their fundamentalist leadership. But Pakistan till today continues to work on wrong assumptions that people of Kashmir will throw their lot with Pakistan. In fact, even Muslims in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are crying for freedom. The ruthless manner in which they are being ill-treated and subjugated and denied human rights deserves condemnation.

India's experience in dealing with Pakistan shows that the leadership in Pakistan does not adhere to one stand, and shift their stand frequently to suit their convenience. Pakistan attacked India thrice to take Kashmir forcibly, but failed and in the bargain lost some 5,000 square km area to India with about 100,000 prisoners of war. In 1972, Mr. Bhutto came to Simla and after an agreement to solve all its future problems with India through bilateral negotiations in exchange for its terrritory and prisoners of war again backed out of its commitments. The succeeding military or civil governments in Pakistan never kept the promises they gave to India.

At the CHOGM [Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting] in Harare, the Pakistan premier, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, told the Indian prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, that they would not involve a third party in their bilateral disputes and try to solve the problems between them through negotiations under the Simla agreement. But again Mr. Sharif raised the issue at Harare, during the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] conference, at UN Security Council, and elsewhere. The summit meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference—OIC—has echoed the Pakistani stand on Kashmir in its various resolutions. The OIC has been passing these resolutions since August last year without caring to know the truth about the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir or the views of the Indian Government. India regards the OIC resolution irrelevant because Kashmir is not a religious issue.

It is difficult to deal with the country whose leadership cannot keep its word or adhere to agreements and keeps on shifting its stand from time to time. Most of the people of Kashmir are sick of the attitude and policies of Pakistan. They want democracy and stern action against Pakistan, which is responsible for destroying their homes and hearths, misleading their youth, and paralyzing their economic activity. They are also aware of the plight of Muslims in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Sindhis, Pakhtoons and other minorities.

Iran

Further on UN Declaration of Iraq as Aggressor

Statement Assesses Ruling, Reparations

LD1112193891 Tehran IRNA in English 1809 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—The United Nations secretary general's report to the Security Council Tuesday declaring Iraq as the aggressor party in the eight year (1980-88) [war against Iran] focuses on aggressive operations of the regime against Iran from various aspects including its unwarranted resort to military force, violating international rights, violating the territorial integrity of Iran, continued occupation of parts of Iranian soil, and violation of the principles of human rights, especially the repeated deployment of chemical weapons.

Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that Iraq's excuses for invading Iran are not really substantial, and therefore according to Paragraph 6 of the Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for identifying the aggressor party, Iraq's aggression against Iran having been already too obvious the implementation of the contents of the paragraph would not really be needed.

Except for instances marked by the invisible pressures against the U.N, by the United States and its allies, the report card of the world body during Mr Perez de Cuellar's secretaryship has enough for him to boast of. During his secretaryship the U.N. changed from a partly passive international organization into a dynamic one.

During Perez de Cuellar's office the U.N. helped defuse tension in such countries as Kampuchea, Angola, Nicaragua, as well as helped bring to end Iraq's war with Iran, and more recently during the Persian Gulf crisis.

The open declaration of the name of the aggressor party in the war against the new found Islamic Republic, though announced more than ten years later, as well as

Perez de Cuellar's personal concern for assuming a role independent of the preference of the leading world powers gives him special prominence. Obviously, as a result of Perez de Cuellar's position in the United Nations the former supporters of the Iraqi regime in the international community now have little to say.

The indentification of the aggressor party has upheld the Islamic Republic's defence on the international scene of its non-guilty position in the war, and proved the patience and the glorious resistance of Iran's Muslim people during those eight long years.

The ruling of the U.N. is also flying colours for the Islamic Republic of Iran and its foreign policy planning which, of course, must have been a foundation stone in the ultimate report of U.N. secretary general.

It may now be claimed that the resistance of Iran's Muslim people and combatants in the warfronts is bearing fruits. Although that fruit has cost the life of many thousands of pious dedicated Muslims on the warfronts and elsewhere throughout Iran, but at any rate the declaration of the highest ranking official of the highest ranking international forum is proof of the righteousness of Iran in the conflict started by the regime in Baghdad.

The aggressor party having been officially named by the U.N., it is now the task of our Foreign Ministry to double current efforts and exploit every possible international forum to commit the Iraqi regime to paying Iran upwards of dollars 1,000,000,000,000 (one trillion) damages.

Here is hope to believe that on the strength of Perez de Cuellar's report to the Security Council and in view of the United Nations' decisive ruling in this regard concerning Kuwait the second victim of the Iraqi regime's aggression, the Islamic Republic of Iran as the prime victim of Baghdad, will launch out a fresh diplomacy at the world body within the context of its claims for reclaiming that which it lost as a result of the ravages of an unwanted war.

Cabinet Hails Decision

LD1112172191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a session today chaired by First Vice President Mr. Habibi. The session reviewed the UN secretary general's report declaring Iraq as the aggressor and initiator of the war against Iran.

The cabinet considered the UN secretary general's responsible and proper action to be worthy of praise and thanks from the government and the nation. This action in declaring Iraq as the aggressor and initiator of the war against Iran is in fact the implementation of a phase of Resolution 598 which Iran and Iraq accepted in its entirety and to which they pledged adherence.

The cabinet expressed the hope that the secretary general will announce his candid opinion on other parts of Resolution 598, especially concerning reparations and damage inflicted on Iran. This victory, which demonstrated the Islamic Republic of Iran's innocent and righteous aspect, was undoubtedly rooted in the pure blood of the martyrs and the bravery of the armed forces. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry on 'Victory'

NC1212083791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Our Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in which it describes the identification of Iraq as the aggressor in the imposed war as an international admission of the righteousness of the revolutionary Iranian nation's respectable defense. The Foreign Ministry has congratulated the leader of the Islamic revolution and the Muslim Iranian nation on this great political victory and has stated that the identification of Iraq as the aggressor in the imposed war was one of the very important conditions propounded by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the eight years of sacred defense, and that this stemmed from the justice-seeking stand of the Iranian Government and nation. This victory was finally achieved thanks to the steadfastness of the large Muslim Iranian nation; to the selflessness and courage of the combatants of Islam; to the patience and perseverence of the disabled; the freemen [released POW's], and the respectable families of the martyrs; and to the emphasis placed by the officials of the system on the principled stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Foreign Ministry has pointed out that the true contents of this declaration are an international confession to the righteousness of the respectable defense by the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation and that these will definitely have a significant political impact on the justice-seeking struggles of nations and governments that are at war with world arrogance on the whole. Among these effects is the introduction of the element of justice in international law, the inattention to which during the imposed war led to another act of aggression and war in the Persian Gulf. Respect for this element in the future will definitely have a significant impact on international peace and security.

President Congratulates Khamene'i

NC1212082291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Dec 91

["Text" of message sent by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief, from Senegal on 11 December]

[Text] In the name of God Almighty, to the auspicious esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may your shadow be lengthened.

The news that the Iraqi regime has been identified as the aggressor in the imposed war, as stated by the UN secretary general, is considered a big political victory for the heroic Iranian nation and has been a source of contentment for me. Even though the identification of Iraq as the aggressor occurred very late, nevertheless it proved that our nation's resistance yielded good fruits, one of which is what the UN secretary general has now stated.

It was the right of the great Iranian nation and of the heroic combatants that their patience and resistance finally be rewarded and the pure soul of the late imam satisfied.

I congratulate your eminence, the great Iranian nation, the heroic combatants, the esteemed families of the martyrs, and the dear disabled and released prisoners of war on this great political victory. I hope that with your sagacious leadership our nation will achieve all its just rights which have been trampled on by the aggression of the Iraqi regime, and that the UN Security Council will approve this positive step by the secretary general and will thus pave the way for future positive steps.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Dated] 11 December 1991, Senegal

Khomeyni Sends Message to Khamene'i

LD1112175191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Dec 91

["Text" of message from Ahmad Khomeyni to Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, on the UN secretary general's report "confirming Iraq's aggression against Iran"—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted Islamic leader, may his blessing be prolonged:

Greetings. At last, after 11 years of struggle and combat with the leaders of world arrogance, especially the world-devouring United States, His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, has identified Iraq as the aggressor. The world would not have witnessed Saddam's limitless crimes had this action been taken earlier. Although his eminence the imam is not here, his spirit is witness to the result of the unceasing struggle of the soldiers of Islam in the various political, campaigning, and ideological arenas. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Communique Greets Nation

LD1212095191 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, now in Dakar, Senegal, on Wednesday cabled a message of congratulations to the leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, felicitating him on the occasion of the U.N. declaration of Iraq having been the aggressor party in the war with Iran. [passage omitted]

Still in another gesture of felicitation Thursday the armed forces command headquarters in a communique congratulated the nation on the occasion saying that the naming by the United Nations of the aggressor party in the war with Iran was the product of the steadfast resistance of the Iranian nation.

The communique also paid tribute to deceased leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, for his spiritual leadership of Muslim combatants on the warfronts.

It also offered its felicitations to Muslim combatants, wounded war veterans, and families of the martyrs and of those missing in action.

Iran Said To Receive Weapons Meant for Afghans

HK1112130591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Hong Kong, Dec 11 (AFP)—Iran received U.S.-made weapons worth 600 million dollars originally intended for Afghan mojahedin guerillas during the 1980's, a Hong Kong-based weekly magazine said Wednesday.

The weapons, which included artillery and anti-tank missiles, were in addition to the illegal arms supplies exposed in the Iran-Contra scandal of 1986 during the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW said in its latest edition.

Worth 600 million dollars, they were transported by land from Pakistan to Iran with the knowledge and help of Pakistani and Israeli military and intelligence authorities, the article said.

The weekly said the arms, meant for Afghan guerillas, were paid for by both U.S. Congress and Iran, with the surplus being placed in secret CIA accounts in European banks.

This money was used by the CIA to finance clandestine operations, including those of the Nicaraguan Contras, which had been explicitly banned by the U.S. Congress, it said.

Industries Ministers Meet PRC Official

LD1012220191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Joint PRC-Iranian industrial ties were discussed in a meeting between Guangyuan, PRC minister for machine-building and electronics industry, who arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of an economic-industrial delegation, and Heavy Industries Minister

Nezhad-Hoseynian. The PRC minister for machine-building and electronics industry referred to the two countries' cooperation projects in the field of machine-building and equipment for paper and sugar production and for machine toolmaking and expressed the hope that during his trip he would become familiar with the industrial progress made by the Islamic Republic of Iran and that his visit would prepare the way for the expansion of industrial cooperation. Nezhad-Hoseynian spoke of the existing framework for cooperation in the heavy industries sector and for the exchange of technical know-how, as well as for the exploitation of the unused potential of the country's industrial units and possible joint investments, and called for consolidating this cooperation.

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1630 GMT on 9 December reports: "Cooperation between Iran and the PRC in manufacturing paper, cement production, the textile industry, electricity and electronics, and manufacturing china and ceramics was discussed at this afternoon's meeting between the PRC minister of machine-building and electronics industry and Industries Minister Ne'matzadeh at the Industries Ministry. The sides also discussed avenues of joint investment."]

German Banking Union To Provide Investment Loan

NC1112135291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] A German banking union is to provide a 1.2-billion-Deutsche mark loan to the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to IRNA from Bonn, the agreement was signed yesterday in Munich. The Government Insurance Company of (Hersen) has guaranteed this agreement. This loan, which will be distributed among five Iranian banks, will assist German companies in investing in Iran. The Iranian Central Bank is coordinating this transaction.

Karrubi Calls For Expanding DPRK Ties

LD1012233791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] At a meeting with Majles Speaker Mr. Karrubi today, the deputy foreign minister of the DPRK announced his country's readiness to confront the U.S. conspiracies.

In the course of this meeting, the speaker of the Islamic Majles said: In view of the very good relations between Iran and North Korea during the imposed war, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches particular value to these relations; and while declaring its overall support for North Korea, is in favor of daily expansion of the two countries' ties.

Commentary on Access to Nuclear Technology

NC1012113991 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Nov 91 p 16

[Commentary by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Foreign Ministry adviser: "Weekly Political Newsletter—Forbidden Knowledge"]

[Excerpts] 1. Last week the U.S. State Department announced: Iranians should not gain access to nonmilitary nuclear technology and international organizations (such as the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]) should not assist them in this regard as Iran's motives for the longterm cannot be trusted!

It is obvious that there is immense knowledge connected to nuclear technology (even for solely medical uses) and therefore according to the current U.S. rhetoric, these uses should also be banned. [passage omitted]

2. "Forbidden knowledge" is an old tale and I consider it too farfetched that the Americans would know who had similar ideas before them, and how "knowledge " in ancient times was considered a personal monopoly like a person's wealth, wife, and children. Pythagoras was the first person to try to popularize knowledge and teaching, transforming it from a personal to a public matter. [passage omitted]

3. However, what I wish to say is: How can a nation be prevented from gaining access to science and technology, especially in a case when the spread of that technology among nations is so important that the UN has set up numerous agencies for its expansion. [passage omitted]

We feel that the U.S. attitude is very obsolete. I do not see any justification in it and it is a sign of weakness in U.S. policy. The United States is preparing itself for rivalry in the world today and cannot seize the "opportunity" by means of horns and trumpets. Even if it does, it cannot hold on to it.

4. Of course, if the issue is nuclear arms there is an easy way: The entire Middle East should be stripped of nuclear arms, whether it be from the countries, the arsenals, or the seas. Is this a fallacious thesis [preceding word in English]? Is this not practical?

The United States should be certain that there is no other way. It cannot expend billions of dollars for the manufacture of nuclear arms and say to all other countries that they cannot even obtain relevant knowledge in this regard. Ultimately, no one should even receive nuclear arms from the United States. However, nuclear arms are made by human beings and those who have done so have done this on the basis of their "knowledge" which knows no boundaries.

5. In my view, we should eliminate a major misunderstanding: Islamic Iran does not see any need to spend its budget and resources on nuclear weapons. In its areas of defense it does not intend to stockpile the world's weapons. We prefer to use our dollars for the expansion

of agriculture, development and for setting up basic industries. This is not, however, tantamount to saying that Iran does not have a right to acquire nuclear technology. No country has the right to make decisions regarding another country's defense, scientific, or industrial setup. Our youth are aware that they are on a battlefield which is not less in any way than the battlefields of holy defense. We should prove to the world that for Iranian scholars, there are no boundaries to science and technology!

INA: 400 Troops Killed in Military Exercise

JN0612125691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Paris, 6 Dec (INA)—Four hundred Iranian soldiers were killed by bullets from their companions in a military exercise called "Zahd" which the Iranian Armed Forces carried out in southern Iran two weeks ago.

A statement issued by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in Paris said that a report by the Iranian Armed Forces General Staff had described this incident as suspicious.

The statement also said that hundreds of members of the so-called Revolutionary Guards were recently arrested in an internal purge.

Assassination of Opponents Reportedly Ordered

TA0912081191 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] An exclusive report from reliable sources indicates that on orders of the Islamic Republic leaders, 14 professional terrorists, including some nationals from West European countries, have been assigned to assassinate opponents of the Islamic Republic regime abroad. We will provide you with further information on this issue as soon as we receive it.

Khamene'i Warns of 'Cultural Assault'

LD1112230891 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution today warned that the cultural revolution as well as national and Islamic culture of the Iranian people were being threatened by enemies.

"Today, a very dangerous cultural assault against the Islamic revolution is obviously seen because the world of Islam has been awakened," cautioned Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i in a speech to the members of the Supreme Council in Charge of the Cultural Revolution.

The leader also warned that the enemy's cultural assault, far different from the past, has changed its face and therefore Iranian officials should act vigilantly to foil it. He called on the ulema to put their scientific and jurisprudential knowledge at the disposal of academic circles.

College students constitute an exceptional stratum treading the path of science and knowledge, the leader said, adding that this group should maintain their revolutionary spirit, increase their political insight and beware not to become an instrument in the hands of politicians.

"One of the main aims of the Islamic system is to turn students into pious, scholar men at their academic environments," the leader said.

Political Factions Urge To Counter Common Enemies

NC0912112691 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Common Obligations Against a Common Enemy"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Even though the two factions active on our country's political scene do have faults, they also have strong points which it would be unjust to ignore. Their members are cultured individuals with a revolutionary past, who have served Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran's system meritoriously and honorably.

Their concern for the nation is undisputed, so it is fitting to recognize and stress both parties' strong and positive points and try hardest to prevent weaknesses surfacing. Is this not the obligation of the pen and the tongue in an Islamic system? [passage omitted] Any assessment will conclude that the enemy has shown no mercy to anyone in our country, big or small, and does not care for any faction. The enemy does not want either faction to exist, and on principle does not want anyone even slightly inclined toward the Islamic Republic of Iran to play any kind of role in any country or any part of the world. Whoever denies this is either our true enemy or knows nothing of what is going on in the world.

There is no doubt that the Islamic Republic of Iran's enemies are the same. They do not accept that the Islamic Republic of Iran exists. They are enemies of both political factions active in our country.

Since both factions have a common enemy who believes that their greatest crime is to believe in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, what are the dictates of logic and the sharia? That is what has been enjoined in the Koranic verses: And fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart, and your power depart, and hold fast all together by the rope which God stretches out for you, be not divided among yourselves. Both factions know the benefits of solidarity and cooperation and the demerits of disunity and discord. [passage omitted]

The two political factions' superiors should call on all likeminded people to adopt the correct and logical policy

based on piety in attitudes, viewpoints, and obligations, including the control of opportunists who have ulterior motives. Neither faction is free from such individuals.

Our people know that they have never had such sympathetic officials as those in charge of affairs today. The people appreciate their worth and if they realized their own worth and their own shortcomings they would seek to redeem themselves and base all their policies on uniting against a common enemy. Then, a bright future would await the nation and the country—a nation that took the first step toward revitalizing Islam and, with God's wish, will continue on this proud path until all Muslim nations' awaken.

Nepal & Bhutan

Koirala Returns From India; 'Animosity' Ended

BK1012125091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 10 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala returned home Tuesday after a five-day official visit to India, saying the trip had ended three decades of animosity between the two Asian neighbours.

Speaking to reporters on returning from New Delhi, where the two countries signed five broad cooperation agreements, Koirala said the visit "helped to end the 30-year cold relationship and generated (a) new vista of friendship and cooperation."

In New Delhi, Koirala said last week that mutual hostility stemming from Kathmandu's 1988 purchases of weapons from China, which resulted in a virtual blockade of his landlocked country, would not arise again.

India viewed the arms supplies as impinging on its security.

Koirala and his Indian counterpart, P.V. Narasimha Rao, last week signed five agreements covering the contentious issues of trade, transit and sharing of water resources.

The trade agreement is effective for five years and includes greater Indian concessions for Nepalese products. The transit agreement details provisions for Nepal to conduct its overseas trade through India and includes simplified customs procedures to help Nepalese traders.

Neither accord, nor a seven-year agreement aimed at controlling illegal border trade, requires ratification by parliament, Koirala said.

Asked about possible changes on the overland transit facility to Nepal via Radhikapur, between India and Bangladesh, Koirala described the matter as "obsolete."

But a senior member of his entourage told AFP the Indian leaders indicated they would extend one more overland transit route for Nepalese trade with Bangladesh and with the outside world.

The overland facility will be finalised when the Bangladeshi, Indian and Nepali prime ministers meet in Colombo later this month, the official said.

Pakistan

'Text' of Economic Reform Legislation

BK1212072191 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 91 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 9—The President has promulgated the protection of Economic Reforms Ordinance 1991, which shall come into force at once.

Following is the full text of the ordinance: Ordinance No XXXLX of 1991, an ordinance to provide for furtherance and protection of economic reforms.

Whereas it is necessary to create a liberal environment for savings and investments and other matters relating thereto;

And Whereas it is necessary to release the economic resources and potentials of the country from unnecessary controls and regulations for its rapid industrialisation and to provide equitable economic opportunities for all sections of the society;

And whereas a number of economic reforms have been introduced and are in the process of being introduced to achieve the aforesaid objectives;

And whereas it is necessary to provide legal protection to these reforms in order to create confidence in the establishment and continuity of the liberal economic environment created thereby;

And whereas the National Assembly is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause I of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance;

1. Short title, extent and commencement: (1) This Ordinance may be called the Protection of Economic Reforms Ordinance 1991. (2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan. (3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions: (1) In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:

(a) "Government" includes both the Federal Government and any Provincial Government.

(b) "Economic reforms" means economic policies and programmes, laws and regulations announced, promulgated or implemented by the Government on and after

the seventh day of November, 1990, relating to privatisation of public sector enterprises, and nationalised banks, promotion of savings and investments, introduction of fiscal incentives for industrialisation and deregulation of investment, banking, finance, exchange and payments systems, holding and transfer of currencies; and (c) all other expressions used in this Ordinance shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them under the relevant laws.

3. Ordinance to override other laws: The provisions of this Ordinance shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (VII of 1947), the Customs Act, 1969 (IV of 1969), the Income Tax Ordinance, 1979 (XXXI of 1979), or any other law for the time being in force.

4. Freedom to bring, hold, sell and take out foreign currency: All citizens of Pakistan resident in Pakistan or outside Pakistan and all other persons shall be entitled and free to bring, hold, sell, transfer and take out foreign exchange within or out of Pakistan in any form and shall not be required to make a foreign currency declaration at any stage nor shall any one be questioned in regard to the same.

5. Immunities to foreign currency accounts: (1) All citizens of Pakistan resident in Pakistan or outside Pakistan who hold foreign currency accounts in Pakistan, and all other persons who hold such accounts, shall continue to enjoy immunity against any enquiry from the Income Tax Department or any other taxation authority as to the source of financing of the foreign currency accounts.

(2) The balances in the foreign currency accounts and income there from shall continue to remain exempted from the levy of wealth-tax and income tax and compulsory deduction of Zakat [Islamic tax] at source.

(3) The banks shall maintain complete secrecy in respect of transactions in the foreign currency accounts.

(4) The State Bank of Pakistan or other banks shall not impose any restrictions on deposits in and withdrawals from the foreign currency accounts and restrictions if any shall stand withdrawn forthwith.

6. Protection of fiscal incentives for setting up of industries:- The fiscal incentives for investment provided by the Government through the statutory orders listed in the Schedule or otherwise notified shall continue in force for the term specified therein and shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the investors.

7. Protection of transfer of ownership to private sector: The ownership, management and control of any banking commercial, manufacturing or other company, establishment or enterprise transferred by the Government to any person under any law shall not again be compulsorily acquired or taken over by the Government for any reason whatsoever.

8. Protection of foreign and Pakistani investment:- No foreign industrial or commercial enterprise established or owned in any form by a foreign or Pakistani investor for private gain in accordance with law and no investment in share of equity of any company, firm, or enterprise, and no commercial bank or financial institution established, owned or acquired by any foreign or Pakistani investor shall be compulsorily acquired or taken over by the Government.

9. Secrecy of banking transaction:- Secrecy of bona fide banking transactions shall be strictly observed by all banks and financial institutions, by whoseover owned, controlled or managed.

10. Protection of financial obligation:- All financial obligations incurred, including those under any instrument, or any financial and contractual commitment made by or on behalf of the Government shall continue to remain in force, and shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the beneficiaries.

11. Rules:- The Federal government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

The Schedule

(See Section 6)

1. Notification No. SRP 1283 (I)/90, dated the 13th December, 1990, issued under sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1979 (XXXI of 1979).

2. Notification No. SRO1284 (I)/90. dated the 13th December, 1990, issued under section 19 of the Customs Act, 1969 (IV of 1969).

Government, China Sign Technological Accord

BK0912145991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Pakistan and China signed in Islamabad today their 11th agreement on bilateral cooperation in the scientific and technological fields. Under the agreement the two sides will conduct joint research and exchange study visits, information, documents, and data in various scientific and technological fields. Elahi Bux Soomro, the federal minister for science and technology; and Chen Zutao, the vice minister of China's State Science and Technology Commission, signed the documents on behalf of their respective countries.

Government, Iran Sign Commercial Agreement

LD0812000791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of projects pertaining to an oil refinery and

sugar and cement factories. This memorandum of understanding was signed at a meeting between Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian and Mr. Islam Nabi, the Pakistani production minister, in the Pakistani city of Karachi. On the basis of the agreement the two parties will establish joint companies in the two countries to implement oil, cement, and sugar projects. The two countries also reached agreement on manufacturing parts for vehicles and tractors.

Editorial Deplores Government Human Rights Policy

BK1112112191 Lahore THE NATION in English 11 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Human Rights and Politics"]

[Text] The observance of Human Rights Day in the country on Tuesday acquired a specially bitter tone because of certain events in Sindh. Pakistan has been observing the Day for many years by holding seminars and organising processions in the larger cities, more or less as a ritual. A few years back, the instances of abuse of human rights used to be of Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians. More recently, the focus of such abuses was Indian atrocities on Kashmiris, in the Occupied Kashmir. That a day would come when Pakistanis would see themselves as victims of such excesses, was hard to visualise. Veena Hayat's [rape] case may have lent the Opposition a ready stick to beat the government with, but for far too long Islamabad has chosen to shut its eyes to the goings on in Sindh. Even when the government's own coalition partners, such as the Jamiyat [i-Islami], tried to draw the Centre's attention to organised torture and victimisation of Sindh government's detractors, or political opponents or certain groups or parties, they were advised to remain quiet, at least till such time that Sindh's Chief Minister had sorted out the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. This conspiracy of silence within the ruling circles on excesses committed against political opponents, has been so all-pervasive that none from among them is willing to condemn even patent crimes, for fear that it would weaken Jam Sadiq's political standing in the province.

Abduction and torture of political opponents and instances of roughing up or intimidating journalists, get condoned in Sindh presumably on the theory that the end justifies the means, even if one has to resort to human rights abuses. Such abuses are seen as an acceptable price to pay. But violation of human rights, irrespective of the political creed of the victims, and regardless of the benefits that these confer on its perpetrators, remain violations. And they take away slowly but surely the implicit moral support from underneath the superstructure of a democratic rule. That is not to say that a democratic government would lose its mandate to rule, or even that the charges of human rights violations brought against it are necessarily valid, but when a government chooses to belittle the killings and rapes that happen, and thinks nothing of putting thousands in jail, in order to capture three or four terrorists, then something is basically wrong with its values and philosophy. And unless it disabuses itself of this philosophy, it may lose whatever legitimacy it may otherwise have.